

Saddam offers treaty 'to confront evil-doers who want to harm Muslims'

Iraq seeks Iran peace deal in hunt for allies

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IRAQ yesterday sought formal peace with Iran to free its million-strong army to concentrate on the Gulf crisis. The offer was cautiously welcomed by Tehran.

In a letter addressing President Rafsanjani as "my dear brother", President Saddam Hussein agreed to all Iranian demands, two years after fighting in the eight-year Gulf war ceased.

The move underlined Iraq's desperate quest for allies in the face of international sanctions and the Western and Arab armies building up in the region in response to his seizure of Kuwait. Iran has condemned the invasion, but the peace initiative indicates that Iraq hopes it may become a lifeline in beating the UN trade embargo.

Baghdad is to start withdrawing troops from Iran tomorrow and has asked the Red Cross to help with the release of more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners. Iran still holds about 70,000 Iraqis.

President Saddam told Iran: "Everything you wanted and concentrated upon has been realised." That included the reinstatement of the 1975 Algiers Treaty dividing the Shatt al-Arab waterway between the two countries. President Saddam publicly tore up that treaty shortly before his army invaded Iran.

The waterway forms the southern border between the two countries and was vital to Iraq, but since the capture of Kuwait with its extensive port

facilities, Iraq no longer depends on the channel.

President Saddam's message said a comprehensive peace treaty was indispensable for "a serious interaction among all believers to confront evil-doers who want to harm Muslims and the Arab nations". It added: "Perhaps

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we could co-operate in preserving the Gulf as a lake of peace and stability."

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi, said the proposal could bring about a "lasting and just peace", but added that a formal response would be given after the Iraqi message had been formally delivered.

Diplomats in the Gulf said that Iran was unlikely to proclaim its acceptance immediately, and Tehran radio was quick to resume its attacks on President Saddam after broadcasting his proposal. On Tuesday, Ahmad Khosravi, the son of the late Ayatollah, called President Saddam "the new Hitler".

President Bush echoed that comparison yesterday when he told military officers at the Pentagon: "A half-century ago, our nation and the world paid dearly for appeasing an aggressor who should, and could, have been stopped. We are not about to make the same mistake twice."

Mr Bush rejected Iraqi claims that the Gulf crisis was a struggle between Arabs and Americans. "It is Saddam who lied to his Arab neighbours. It is Saddam who invaded an Arab state. It is Saddam who now threatens the Arab nation." Of President Saddam's calls for a holy war against the infidel, he said: "This from the man who has used poison gas against the men, women and children of his own country, who invaded Iran in a war that costs the lives of half a million Muslims, and who now plunders Kuwait."

The president's remarks were largely directed at King Hussein of Jordan, whom he is to meet for talks today. Jordan has been accused of allowing

its Red Sea port of Aqaba to be used to break the sanctions and Mr Bush emphasised that the naval force in the Gulf region would act to make sure that "no goods get in, not one drop of oil gets out".

Washington officials played down the significance of the final settlement of the Gulf war, drawing attention only to the military advantage to Iraq.

Middle East analysts see the peace offer as a sign of President Saddam's weakness. The gesture to Iran is his second initiative in four days in his search for support. On Sunday, he offered to discuss a settlement in Kuwait if Israel withdrew from occupied Arab territories and Syria pulled out of Lebanon. The United States, Israel and Syria all immediately rejected the idea.

When he tore up the Algiers treaty, President Saddam said he had been forced to sign because he was militarily weak. Now he is believed to be offering to recognise it because he is again in difficulties.

Of Iraq's immediate neighbours, only Jordan is a potential supporter and President Saddam is aware of the pressure Mr Bush is bringing to bear on King Hussein. To the north, Turkey has closed two of Iraq's vital oil pipelines and yesterday announced that it had stopped ships unloading food for Iraq. It has confiscated 12,500 tons of cargo bound for Baghdad.

To the south, Saudi Arabia has also closed an Iraqi pipeline and has invited foreign forces to its defence. To the west, Syria, an enemy for more than 20 years, is planning to send troops to Saudi Arabia. To the east lies Iran.

Most analysts were sceptical of the chances of a real breakthrough in Iran-Iraq relations and suggested that the Iraqi leader could face domestic difficulties over his about-face.

If the rapprochement were sufficiently warm to enable Iraq to circumvent the sanctions, it would be a disastrous blow to the international action. But analysts doubted that Iran would support its former enemy that way. Brian Pridham, director of the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies at Exeter university, said: "Any evidence that Iran was facilitating sanctions-breaking would be regarded very seriously by the United States and would double the danger. I find it difficult to imagine that Iran would do that."



Shuttle diplomat: King Hussein of Jordan arriving yesterday at Andrews air force base near Washington

King Hussein tries to buy more time

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush today meets King Hussein of Jordan for a conference that could decide the course of events in the Gulf. The two men are old friends, but their interests now are far apart.

The president is a man in a hurry. He has overseen the fastest American military build-up since the Korean war, the greatest diplomatic triumph in the history of the United Nations and a level of domestic support which has surprised colleagues and critics alike. But he is terrified of being abandoned by fickle allies, stabbed in the back by Democrat opponents and stranded in a tank-strewn desert, as a White House aide put it yesterday: King Hussein

wants almost the precise opposite. He needs time.

If he sides with President Bush, bars Iraq from using Aqaba and joins the UN blockade, his mainly Palestinian population, inspired by President Saddam Hussein, may overthrow his rule just as his Iraqi Hashemite kinsman, King Faisal II, was overthrown and killed 32 years ago. President Saddam's own forces could be at the gates of Amman in 12 hours. If, however, he joins forces with Iraq, he faces a trade embargo and international hostility which could be no less destructive of his fragile throne.

King Hussein wants to avoid a choice. In American eyes, he has taken upon himself the role of mediator not because he believes that a negotiated settlement can be found but because mediation is the only way he can buy some small nation-preserving degree of neutrality.

Jordan was created after the first world war as a buffer state between great powers and has survived only because its king has made a lifetime study of the consequences of that fact. He is "King Straddle", a Republican adviser said yesterday, echoing the taunt that Mr Bush hurled at his rival, Bob Dole, in the 1988 New Hampshire primary.

In pursuit of amity with his "Arab brothers", King Hussein expelled British military advisers in 1956, joined a lost war against Israel in 1967 and stood closest by Iraq at the beginning of the current conflict. In search of American support, he maintained diplomatic relations with Washington after the humiliation of 1967, and played a central role

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Thank you everybody, rescued girl says

By ROBIN YOUNG

GEMMA Lawrence, the seven-year-old girl who disappeared from her family's holiday caravan in Bridport, Dorset, last Sunday, had a six-word message for her well-wishers yesterday. Clutching one of the many toys she has been sent since being returned to her parents, she said in a small voice: "Thank you, everybody, for helping me."

Gemma, whose ordeal ended on Tuesday, looked pale but happy. She and her parents, Nicholas, aged 32, and Gaynor, aged 29, from Wantage in Oxfordshire, posed for pictures for a minute on the lawn of a council office in Bridport. Gemma, her long, dark hair pinned back from her face, was wearing a white T-shirt and cardigan and a turquoise skirt. She held her father's hand tightly while smiling at the photographers.

Gemma had been missing for 56 hours before being found, concealed at an empty house, only 200 yards from the holiday caravan in which she and her family had been sleeping when she disappeared.

Her T-shirt yesterday bore the logo of the caravan site's Tiger Club, and, as well as the Minnie Mouse soft toy, she was carrying two fluffy dogs. A toy rabbit awaited her at the council office. As the photocall ended, her mother gently prompted Gemma to thank those who helped search for her.

The family arrived and departed in an unmarked police car, accompanied by two women police officers trained in counselling.

The Chief Constable of Dorset, Brian Weight, said earlier that hundreds of cards, letters and cuddly toys had been sent to Gemma. He said a doctor had told him the girl had recovered "remarkably well" from her ordeal. "She thinks it was a little adventure."

A police spokesman said Gemma and her parents, her six-year-old sister, Lisa, and four-month-old sister, Charlotte, would now have a few quiet days' holiday together elsewhere.

A 23-year-old unemployed man appeared before Weymouth magistrates yesterday charged with abducting a child.

Paul Stephen Burton, of no fixed address, was remanded in police custody for three days. Dressed in a short-sleeved, open-neck, light-blue shirt and light-weight, blue trousers, he stood silent during the nine-minute hearing.

Tim Shorter, appearing for Mr Burton, made no application for bail. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Debt-laden Queensway goes into receivership

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LOWNDES Queensway, the furniture and carpet group, which trades out of 270 stores under the names Queensway, Carpetland and General George Carpets, has gone into receivership owing about £300 million. About 4,000 jobs are at risk.

Customers who are believed to have given Lowndes some £14 million in deposits in recent weeks may get their money back. The group put in place a £15 million insurance scheme in January to cover customers' deposits.

The scheme, which runs out in five months' time, is triggered when the receivers wind up Lowndes, which means there could be a delay before customers receive their money. Customers who have paid by credit card for goods that they have not received may be compensated by their credit card company.

The group, which had been built up by Sir Phil Harris, was the subject of a £450 million debt-laden takeover bid by James Gulliver two years ago. Yesterday morning, the group's shares were suspended on the Stock Exchange at 1½p, valuing the company at only £12 million. Shareholders are expected to receive nothing for their shares.

Nigel Hamilton and Terry Carter, partners in Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, were appointed receivers at 11pm on Tuesday after the Lowndes directors and their bankers decided that the business could no longer continue without contravening the Insolvency Act.

Shop managers were telephoned early yesterday morning and told not to open the shops. Mr Hamilton said that

the shops would be shut for stocktaking while his team assessed the extent of the group's debt, but should be trading again by Saturday.

He said that he could not say how many jobs would eventually be lost, but was optimistic that some of the stores may be sold as going concerns to other retailers, saving some jobs.

Mr Hamilton said that he thought it was disturbing that a company should go into

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INSIDE

A-levels show improvement

Schools will get A-level results for more than 200,000 sixth-formers this morning showing that students performed slightly better than last year.

Critics had predicted the results would be worse than last year, because pupils tested took the GCSE. They maintained the examination, which replaced the O-level, did not prepare them for the more academically rigorous A-level, particularly in mathematics, science and modern languages. Figures in these subjects are unchanged or improved... Page 7

Guinness trial

The Guinness trial was about protecting the small investor, jurors at Southwark Crown Court were told by the judge yesterday. Suggestions that it just involved "fat cats" fighting it out in the City and was a victimless crime were not correct... Page 5

'Father's legacy'

The son of the late military ruler General Zia, has returned to Pakistan to carry on my father's legacy", Ijaz ul-Haq has spoken at 66 meetings. "I only have to sit in my car and a thousand come to kiss my hand"... Page 9

Township deaths

The death toll in the black townships east of Johannesburg stood at 120, with more than 250 injured, police reported yesterday, adding that there was every indication it could be higher. "We just keep finding bodies"... Page 20

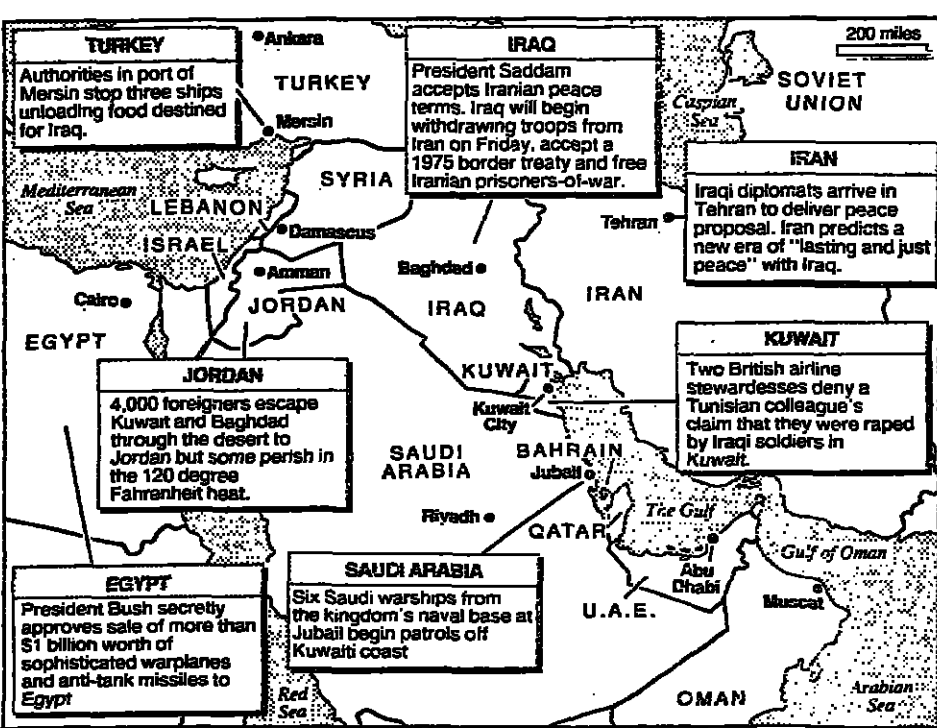
Exam results

Degrees awarded by Liverpool University appear tomorrow. Ulster University results appear today... Page 24

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OS



Motorists' blind spot over road traffic signs

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE daily car journey is an ordeal of ignorance for thousands of drivers who are apparently completely baffled by the nation's road signs.

Three out of ten motorists could not identify a "keep left" sign for researchers carrying out a survey and many were unable to answer questions on the Highway Code. Commercial drivers fared better, although an alarming 17 per cent still could not recognise one of the most common signs on the road.

The survey was carried out for BRS, Britain's largest transport company, at motorway service stations in the Midlands and the West Country. The

firm was trying to discover how great a part driver error plays in the 240,000 accidents in Britain each year, which result in 5,000 deaths.

Howard Whittingham, the BRS driver training manager, said that modern vehicles were packed with safety gadgets, from anti-lock brakes to improved tyres, but that with 90 per cent of accidents due to human error, these features would never play a major role in reducing accidents. "If motorists were to study the Highway Code and adhere to its guidelines then this alone would be the most major step in the right direction and would considerably reduce the 5,000 deaths on our roads each year."

The "keep left" sign was by no

means the only one to baffle many of the 190 car drivers and 204 lorry drivers questioned. Signs carrying safety warnings were among those confounding drivers. Twelve per cent of car drivers could not identify a "no overtaking" sign, and 55 per cent of car and lorry drivers did not know that two horizontal arrows pointing in opposite directions meant that traffic was crossing their one-way road.

Twenty-four per cent of car drivers were unable to name the sign that warns motorists of a level crossing without barriers, although only 7 per cent of truck drivers could not identify the warning.

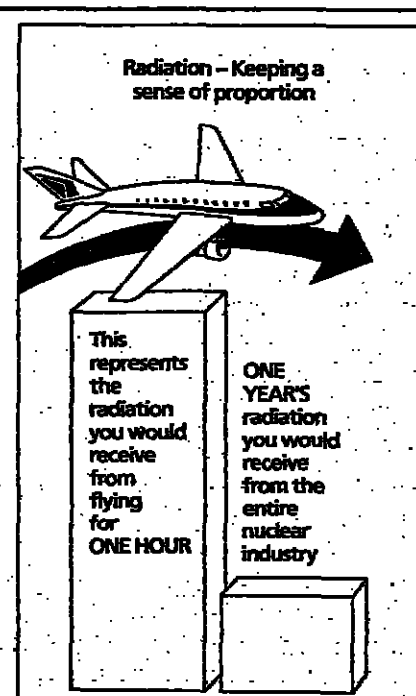
The white disc with a red rim that prohibits vehicles from entering mys-

tified the greatest number of motorists. Only 7 per cent of car drivers and 24 per cent of truck drivers could say what it meant.

There were also worrying indications that many drivers may neglect important safety recommendations in the Highway Code. When asked when they last checked their tyre depth, only half of the car drivers questioned said they had done so in the previous week. Thirteen per cent admitted that they had examined the tread only sometime in the previous six months.

Motorway driving standards also gave cause for concern. Although almost all drivers knew there was a

Continued on page 20, col 3



Just one of the many interesting facts about nuclear energy

Generating electricity from nuclear energy is a complex subject. It is also an emotionally charged issue and views are often formed with little understanding of the facts.

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OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE WORLD'S RESPONSE

Shuttle diplomacy puts King Husain's survival skills to the test

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

WHEN he meets President Bush for emergency talks today, King Husain of Jordan faces the most critical test of the negotiating skills which have helped him survive the quicksands of Middle Eastern politics for 38 years. He will be forced to choose between two courses of action, either of which could prove fatal to his regime.

Mr Bush will insist that he cuts Iraq's last lifeline, the Red Sea port of Aqaba, which is a gaping hole in the global blockade. If he does, King Husain will draw down the wrath of Saddam Hussein, his staunchest regional ally, and provoke unrest at home, where thousands have volunteered to fight for the Iraqi leader.

Mr Bush has made it clear that he will not allow the Jordanian monarch to sit on the fence. As King Husain's jet was touching down in Washington, Mr Bush threatened to blockade Aqaba. In

return, he hinted that Jordan could expect a handsome pay-off to help his ailing economy, which is heavily dependent on exports to Iraq.

Mr Bush might be in danger of expecting too much from the king. If he pushes too hard, he could be overthrown in a revolution whose leaders, whether Palestinians or Islamic fundamentalists, could not be expected to have President Bush's best interests at heart.

President Saddam could also turn on his ally as quickly as he did against President Mubarak of Egypt, his colleague in the short-lived Arab Co-operation Council. For King Husain there is a precedent closer to home: President Saddam was one of the plotters who in 1958 murdered his Hashemite cousin, King Faisal II of Iraq. As the Iraqi leader has shown in recent weeks, he is no lover of monarchies.

Critics of the king in the United States see his shuttle from Baghdad to Washington as an

indication of his duplicity: he will double-cross one ally if the other makes him a better offer.

Many in the West were infuriated that King Husain, long regarded as the most moderate and pro-Western of Arab leaders, educated at Harrow and Sandhurst and a close friend of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, should, after President Saddam's troops stormed into Kuwait, describe the Iraqi leader as a man "who has built his own country up, who believes in the Arab world and who is... a patriot".

His remarks must have dismayed Margaret Thatcher, a long-time supporter, and his friends in Western diplomatic circles where he is known with affection as the PLK, or Plucky Little King.

Certainly his Western credentials are better than any other Arab leader. His second wife, Toni Gardiner, was British, and his current and fourth spouse, Queen Noor, has an Arab-American background. Equally — and a point Western allies

like President Bush tend to forget — the king's Arab credentials are unique and the envy of his rivals. He claims direct descent from the Prophet Muhammad through his ancestors, the family of Beni Hashem.

Jordanian officials believe that the king has an ace up his sleeve that will avert a war between his two allies and confirm his status as an invaluable mediator between the West and the Arabs. This is a message from President Saddam to President Bush which they say includes what amounts to a climbdown by the Iraqi leader: an international conference to discuss withdrawing Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and guarantees that Iraq will not attack Saudi Arabia, in return for an end to the massing of American forces in the Gulf. His supporters say he would not have embarked on such a high-profile mission unless he was certain of success.

The king's skills cannot be underestimated. His

throne is the hottest seat in the Middle East, yet he has remained on it for nearly four decades. He has survived six attempts on his life and nearly as many wars, one of them quasi-civil when in 1970 his large Palestinian constituency rose against him with Syrian support.

After Camp David he was left to face Israel alone on the front line with a hostile Syria, and most recently has had to fight off attempts by Israeli rightwingers to turn Jordan into a Palestine.

In 1967 he supported the former Egyptian leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, and lost half his kingdom to the Israelis. This time he has to choose between the man who regards himself as Nasser's natural heir, and the United States. Whichever way he jumps, he could lose his whole kingdom.

Amer Taheri, page 10

WASHINGTON

Bush condemns the Iraqi leader as an aggressor and liar

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush delivered his most searing condemnation yet of President Saddam Hussein yesterday, dismissing the Iraqi leader's claim that the Gulf conflict was a struggle of Arab against infidel and asserting the US was "striking a blow for the principle that might does not make right".

Addressing America's most senior military officers at the Pentagon, Mr Bush compared President Saddam to Hitler: "A half-century ago, our nation and the world paid dearly for appeasing an aggressor who should — and could — have been stopped. We are not about to make the same mistake twice."

No one, he said, "should doubt our staying power or

determination". A day before his vital meeting with King Husain of Jordan, Mr Bush also offered another clear warning to the monarch whose country has been accused of violating the comprehensive United Nations trade embargo against Iraq.

The multinational naval force now gathering in Middle Eastern waters "must ensure that no goods get in — and that not one drop of oil gets out", he said.

The American people, Congress, US allies and the "vast majority" of Arab people were "with us", he said, and insisted that sanctions were working and that America's "honourable goals" would be achieved.

Mr Bush's address, part attack on Iraq and part defence of "one of the most important deployments of allied military power since the second world war", appeared to be directed particularly at wavering Arab populations, such as Jordan's, that may be susceptible to President Saddam's propaganda and could yet offer Iraq an economic lifeline.

The Iraqi leader had claimed that this was a struggle between Arabs and Americans, he said. "That is clearly false. It is Saddam who lied to his Arab neighbours. It is Saddam who invaded an Arab state. It is Saddam who now threatens the Arab nation."

President Saddam had claimed this was a holy war of Arab against infidel.

"This from the man who has used poison gas against the men, women and children of his own country; who invaded Iran in a war that cost the lives of more than half a million Muslims, and who now plunders Kuwait."

It was not even a struggle between haves and have-nots. Iraq had the world's second largest oil reserves "but thanks to Saddam's ruinous policies of war against other Muslims, he has transformed wealth into poverty."

Mr Bush acknowledged, as he had not in his address to the nation last week, that maintaining access to oil was one reason for America's military intervention.

"Our jobs, our way of life, our own freedom and the freedom of friendly countries around the world would all suffer if control of the world's great oil reserves fell into the hands of Saddam Hussein."

But the president insisted that the United States had taken its stand "not simply to protect resources or real estate, but to protect the freedom of nations".

ABOARD HMS YORK

British sailors on edge awaiting the unknown

"ONE minute you're asleep. The next you're being tumbled out of bed," said John Chivers, aged 17, an engineer on the British navy destroyer York patrolling the Gulf.

He said that since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, the York's crew had been ordered to action stations five times after detecting activity by the Iraqi air force.

"Some of the lads are a bit disappointed because leave has been cancelled but it is also exciting to be waiting for the unexpected," said Chivers, who is from Wakefield.

Tom Rowley, aged 21, from Scarborough said: "Everyone's a bit apprehensive." Nick Jarret, 23, who served during the 1980-83 Gulf War, said the biggest difference was that the main threat now was from an Iraqi air attack rather than Iranian gunboats.

Captain Anthony McEwen,

who commands Britain's Armilla patrol in the Gulf, told reporters his instructions from London would enable him to "carry out government policy" but declined to say whether the York would stop and board ships suspected of breaking the embargo.

He said he believed the threat from chemical weapons had been exaggerated, at least for the Royal Navy, because its ships were prepared to operate and fight under chemical attack.

British warships could also deal with Exocet missiles, which Iraqi warplanes fired frequently during the Gulf war, Captain McEwen said.

"We were moored alongside Dubai on a courtesy visit when the news of the invasion came. I think everyone then realised the game was now different. I would describe the mood as realistic," he added.



One for the road: a long-distance lorry driver taking a puff from his water-pipe before leaving the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba. Traffic through the port is in dispute between President Bush and King Husain

THE CALL-UP

'Weekend warriors' on stand-by

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon is preparing to mobilise possibly tens of thousands of reserve forces to support its regular troops in Saudi Arabia and the United States. The first such mass mobilisation since the start of the Tet offensive in Vietnam in 1968.

It was also reported here yesterday that President Bush has secretly approved the sale of more than \$1 billion (£520 million) worth of advanced warplanes and anti-tank missiles to Egypt and is considering increased arms sales to other Arab nations which have sided with the United States against Iraq.

In a third development, a senior official at the Iraqi foreign ministry has told the US television network ABC that around 3,000 Americans in Kuwait and Iraq are "restrictees" and will not be allowed to leave until the Gulf confrontation is ended. This was the closest either side has come to calling them hostages.

Independent defence experts have estimated that the military deployment to Saudi Arabia is costing about \$300 million a month, a figure which could soar to \$1 billion a day if a full-scale war broke

out. Mr Bush, already struggling to contain a large US budget deficit, has indicated that Saudi Arabia, Japan and other nations may contribute. "The Japanese are more than ready to entertain proposals along those lines," he said.

Pentagon sources have indicated that up to 80,000 reservists and national guardsmen could be called up to support regular forces.

The Pentagon has already had to charter commercial aircraft to fly troops to Saudi Arabia and is activating ageing freighters from its reserve fleet to help transport tanks,

armoured personnel carriers and other heavy equipment.

The reservists, "weekend warriors" as they are sometimes called, have been trained for particular logistical support functions, including medical care. Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, said: "The fact is we have over the years built a very heavy reliance on reserve units into our forces."

Mr Bush has the authority to mobilise up to 200,000 reservists for 90 days, and can extend that for another 90 days without congressional approval. Presidents have been reluctant to use this authority in the past lest it arouse public opposition to military actions.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that Mr Bush had secretly approved the sale of at least 40 F16 fighters, dozens of Maverick air-to-surface missiles, cluster bombs and other weaponry to Egypt, and that the administration was considering increased arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Turkey. Mr Bush has already said he will waive the present limit of 60 F15 fighters that can be sold to

Saudi Arabia and allow the sale of at least 12 more. The administration wants to enhance the capacity of these nations to defend themselves against present or future Iraqi aggression, but such sales to potential adversaries of Israel may encounter stiff opposition on Capitol Hill. Congressmen expressed concern about pumping yet more weapons into such a volatile region, and pointed out that much of Kuwait's military hardware now belonged to Iraq.

"It would be tragic if the administration concluded from this experience that additional arms sales are the answer. We would make a tinderbox even more volatile," said Mel Levine, a Democrat on the House Middle East sub-committee.

The Iraqi description of Americans in Iraq and Kuwait as "restrictees" was given to Ted Koppel, an ABC news anchorman and the first American newsmen allowed into that country. It was a description that contrasted sharply with Mr Bush's reference to the Americans on Tuesday as "inconvenienced people who want to get out".



Cheney: forces 'heavily reliant' on US reservists

MOSCOW

230 Soviet evacuees leave for Baghdad

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union announced yesterday that the first phase of a complex operation to evacuate Soviet women and children from Kuwait had begun, but expressed fears that other Soviet citizens could be prevented from leaving Iraq.

A Soviet spokesman also disclosed that a special envoy was being dispatched to the Gulf as part of Moscow's comprehensive effort to "halt the escalation and find a political solution".

Yuri Gromitskiy, the deputy foreign ministry spokesman, said that the first group of 230 evacuees from Kuwait, had left for Baghdad yesterday in a convoy of buses. The Soviet side had received "understanding and co-operation" from the Iraqis, but indicated that there was a notional deadline: Moscow had been given until August 24 to close its embassy in Kuwait, though no decision had been taken yet on the Soviet response.

He said that closing the embassy would imply acknowledgement or acceptance of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait; but there was the practical difficulty of operating in an occupied country.

Mr Gromitskiy was cautious about whether other Soviet citizens would be able to leave Iraq, so far permission had been received only for the evacuation of women, children and the sick. Asked whether that put Soviet citizens in the same position as others who have been prevented from leaving, he said: "I don't want to use the word hostages. We hope Iraq does not see them that way, and we would not like to see them as hostages either."

There are nearly 9,000 Soviet citizens in Kuwait and Iraq, nearly 8,000 of them in Iraq. But Mr Gromitskiy said reports suggesting that several thousand were military advisers were wrong. He quoted defence ministry figures according to which 193 Soviet "military specialists" were working in Iraq, none of them in anything other than a training or support capacity.

He said he had no knowledge of any violent incidents involving Soviet citizens. "Iraq assured us that there is no threat to the safety of our people and we interpret this reply as responsible and serious," he said.

Mr Gromitskiy said Moscow and Washington were keeping in close and regular contact. Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, broke his holiday to discuss the situation with the Indian foreign minister.

Moscow's special envoy, who will travel to Egypt and from there, it is hoped, to Baghdad, is Mikhail Sitenko, a former head of the Middle East department at the Soviet foreign ministry who has also worked as a deputy secretary-general at the United Nations.

French Fashion Number

COUNTRY LIFE



- The little black dress goes minimal
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UNITED NATIONS

Obscure military panel may be given naval role

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

EVERY fortnight top military officers from the five powers at the United Nations gather in the basement of the UN headquarters.

Their meetings, held in strict secrecy, generally last only five to ten minutes. All they do is to approve the record of the previous meeting and, as one diplomat joked, "decide how big the gins should be".

This peculiar UN ritual, last performed on Friday, has been going on for 45 years. But now the obscure panel, known as the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council, finds itself at the centre of attention as tensions rise in the Gulf.

The Soviet Union has proposed that the committee be revived to take command of a possible UN naval force to enforce sanctions against Iraq, and the British and Americans have expressed interest in the idea.

On Tuesday Robert Kimmitt, US Under Secretary of State, summoned ambassadors from the other four permanent members of the Security

Council — Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — to the State Department in Washington to discuss the committee's possible role. The five powers agreed that their representatives at the UN in New York would continue the discussions, probably later this week.

Britain and the United States, which have imposed an effective blockade of Iraq, appear to favour using the Military Staff Committee as a co-ordinating body to formalise co-operation among navies in the Gulf that would prevent a repeat of the confusion in the region in the mid-1980s, when the waterway was full of warships from the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and five other European powers, each acting independently to protect shipping during the Iran-Iraq war.

"This does not put the naval forces under a UN commander or under UN command or control," one Western diplomat said. Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union had all

put forward ideas about the committee's possible role, diplomats said yesterday.

"The common denominator is that the effectiveness of the operation on the waters could be improved if the transmission belt between the navies and the United Nations is improved," one diplomat said. The Soviet Union has said that it would consider taking part in a blockade of Iraq to enforce UN sanctions only if it took place under the UN flag.

The suggestion to revive the committee came from Valentin Lozinskiy, the Soviet ambassador at the UN. The Soviet Union is this month's chairman of the committee; Britain takes over the chairmanship and hands it to the United States in October. The Soviet Union made a similar proposal for a UN flag force in the Gulf in 1987 as part of its "new thinking" in foreign policy, but superpower tensions then made it impossible.

The US decision to discuss the Soviet proposal breaks a long-standing

Pentagon taboo forbidding new agencies from playing any role in the Gulf. That could open the way for the Soviet Union to play a greater part elsewhere in the Middle East, which could be an important step towards an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Washington decided to consider the Soviet proposal after coming under widespread criticism for enforcing UN sanctions before the Security Council ordered a UN blockade.

The New York Times said in an editorial yesterday: "The first sour note has sounded in President Bush's exemplary management of the Gulf crisis. He is faulted for unilaterally ordering naval interdiction of Iraqi ports without waiting for United Nations support."

"Though Mr Bush acted legally, the criticism is valid. He can best respond by working with the Security Council to create a joint UN command to enforce mandatory economic sanctions against Iraq."

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: IRAQ WOOS IRAN

BAGHDAD

Saddam offers Iran peace deal to free troops for the Gulf

From Juan Carlos Gumucio in Dubai

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday offered Iran peace in order to concentrate his attention on the situation in the Gulf. Tehran's initial response ranged from cautious optimism to overt suspicion.

In a move that underlined Baghdad's military priorities and its desperate quest for allies, the Iraqi leader declared that his country accepted all the conditions for peace presented by Iran, including the 1975 Algiers treaty which divided the Shatt al-Arab waterway between Iraq and Iran.

President Saddam, who tore up the text of that treaty in front of television cameras shortly before his army invaded Iran ten years ago, addressed his offer to President Rafsanjani, whom he referred to as "my dear brother".

"Everything you wanted and concentrated upon has been realised," he told him in a message first read out by Iraqi radio.

His words left no doubts that Baghdad is seeking to balance the West's military build-up in the Gulf by re-deploying the bulk of Iraq's army of one million men to occupied Kuwait and the frontier with Saudi Arabia.

It also seemed to reflect concern over the wave of fresh anti-Iraqi sentiment among key figures in Iran. This became quite evident on Tuesday when Ahmad Khomeini, the influential son of the late Ayatollah, described the Iraqi president as "the new Hitler".

Tehran has strongly condemned Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait and has declared that it would never recognise its annexation by Iraq.

General Saddam said that after eight years of war a comprehensive peace treaty was indispensable for "a serious inter-action among all believers to confront evildoers who want to harm Muslims and the Arab nations".

The Iraqi leader also announced that Baghdad would start withdrawing troops from the 2,600 square kilometres (1,000 square miles) area in Iran under Iraqi occupation.

The pullout of forces still deployed along the Iran-Iraq border is expected to begin tomorrow. This would give President Saddam hundreds of thousands of experienced troops to be used to fortify positions facing the Saudi border.

Simultaneously Baghdad plans to start the release of

more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners, many of whom have been languishing in Iraqi jails for nearly a decade.

"Perhaps we could co-operate in preserving the Gulf as a lake of peace and stability from foreign fleets and powers which are lurking," the message said in an implicit appeal for Iranian support. This co-operation, it added, would be vital to avoid keeping Iraq "outside the arena of the great deal" and to mobilise its forces "towards the objectives which all Muslims and honest Arabs have agreed is right".

An Iraqi delegation was expected to deliver General Saddam's message to Iranian leaders in Tehran last night while arrangements were already under way for the release of Iranian prisoners of war at the border crossing of Khanaqin in Iraq and Qasr-e Shirin in Iran.

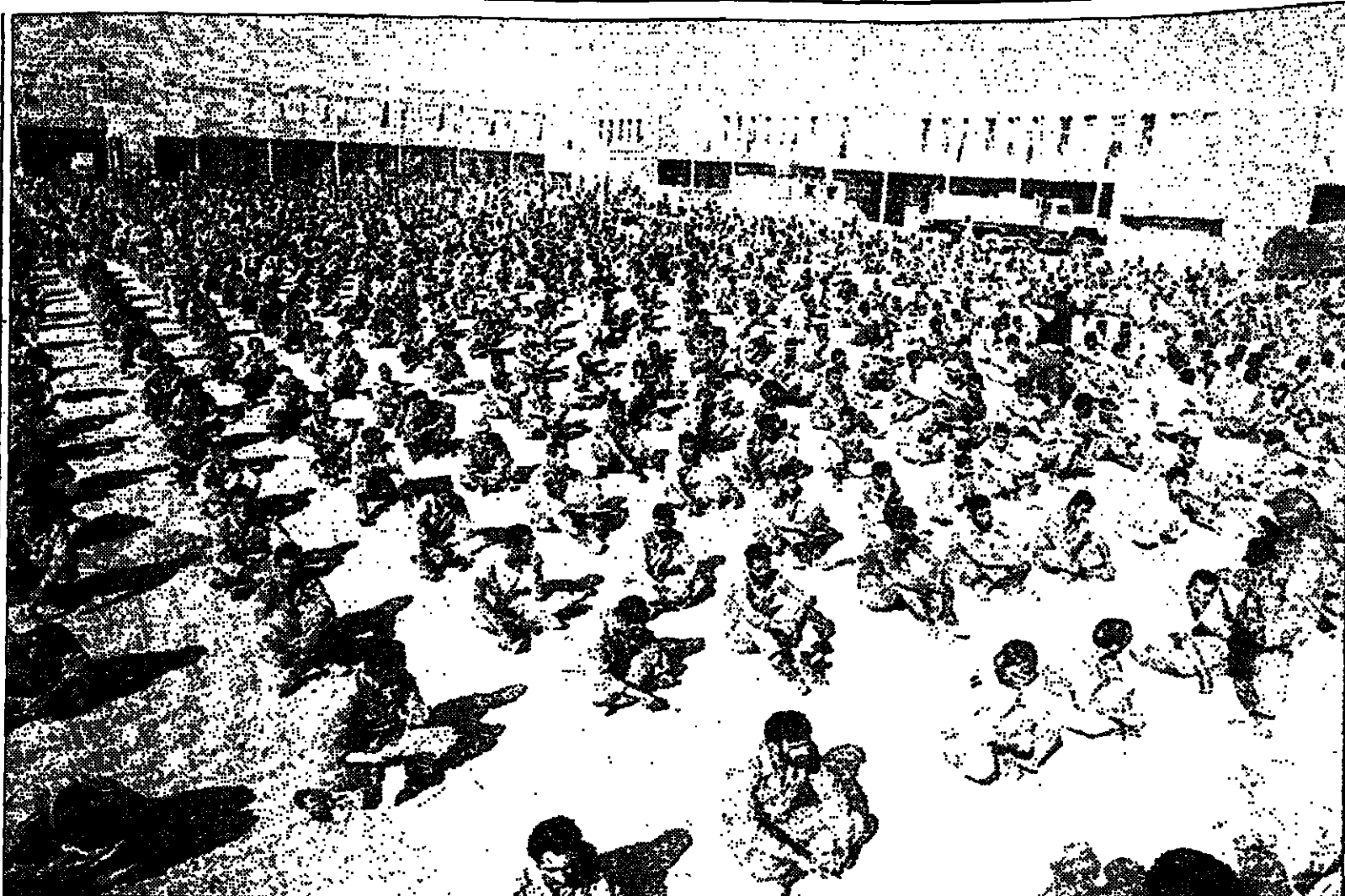
Morteza Sarmadi, the foreign ministry spokesman in Tehran, told reporters that the Iraqi proposal could bring about a "lasting and just peace to the two countries and to the region." A formal response, however, would be given after receiving the proposal through the formal channels, he said.

Tehran radio interrupted its broadcast to announce the Iraqi proposal, but soon afterwards it resumed its verbal attacks on President Saddam. The pyro now coiled on Kuwait's chest and threatening other Gulf states is the same snake reared by world arrogance against Islamic Iran," it said.

Diplomats in the Gulf said last night that Iran is unlikely to proclaim immediately its acceptance. "The Iranians have got what they wanted, except the downfall of Saddam," observed a European diplomat. "They may just wait some time, as if to remind Saddam that he is now negotiating from a very weak position," he said.

Experts in the region predict that Tehran will most probably insist on international guarantees provided by resolution 598 of the United Nations Security Council. They also point out that, after ten years of hatred, President Rafsanjani faces the difficult task of convincing his people that a peace treaty with Iraq, not necessarily with General Saddam himself, remains the only alternative for the reconstruction of Iran.

Anthony Parsons, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Letters, page 11



Flashback to 1988: hundreds of Iranians captured during the Gulf War sitting in the Zorbariyar prison-of-war compound in Iraq. Hope for 30,000 Iranians held in Iraq and the 70,000 Iraqis in Iran's prisons comes with President Saddam's offer of an exchange of prisoners

IMPLICATIONS

Proposals put pressure on Saudi Arabia forces

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's offer to accept Iran's territorial conditions for a peace treaty has clearly been inspired by the need to protect his back while concentrating his military efforts in southern Iraq and Kuwait.

But the move could have serious military implications for Saudi Arabia and the foreign forces which have come to its defence, because if Iran approves the Iraqi leader's peace offer and tension in the area is reduced significantly, President Saddam may be able to release as many as 100,000-200,000 troops to build up his forces available for an attack on Saudi Arabia.

Iraq has 24 divisions committed in the north of the country, most of them along the eastern border with Iran. Their presence on the border with Iran has been necessary because of the failure to reach a peace agreement in the two years since the ceasefire on August 20, 1988.

The next few weeks will determine whether the "Iran factor" is part of a plan to consolidate what Iraq has already gained by its occupation of Kuwait or to mount an invasion of Saudi Arabia.

Even if Iran responds in the way President Saddam is hoping, he will not be able to remove all 24 divisions from the north and northeast. Several — each numbering 12,000 to 15,000 men — will no doubt remain in place as an insurance policy. Several divisions will be maintained on the Turkish border.

According to official British sources, there are 24 divisions in the north and northeast and 24 in the southern part of Iraq, mostly in the central and western areas. A few troops are deployed along the Iraqi border with Saudi Arabia.

The sources said there were also seven divisions, up to 105,000 troops, in Kuwait, with three armoured and mechanised divisions in the south, along the border with Saudi Arabia in the neutral zone, and four infantry divisions around Kuwait City.

All seven are "operational manoeuvre groups" belonging to the Republican Guards, the strike force which invaded Kuwait. The sources said many of the soldiers in Kuwait were only aged 16 and 17 and "some of their equipment is not that well maintained".

American and British intelligence efforts are concentrating on spotting any sign of these seven divisions changing from a "consolidating position to an imminent assault posture". This would include any evidence of artil-

lery and aircraft movements. The Republican Guards are expected to be the units used for an attack on Saudi Arabia.

If President Saddam was able to transfer 20 of the 24 divisions from the north down to southern Iraq, he would have 51 divisions, a minimum of 612,000 men in Kuwait and across the border in Iraq. A further 11 divisions are also now being reformed to add another 132,000 to the pool of troops available for back-up.

To build up sufficient forces for an offensive and to sustain operations over an extended period, the wooing of Tehran has to be seen as a vital part of President Saddam's political manoeuvring. For although Tehran has denounced Iraq's annexation of Kuwait it has opposed the presence of foreign military forces in Saudi Arabia.

● About-face: President Saddam's peace offer was being seen by Western analysts yesterday as further confirmation that he has no intention of withdrawing from Kuwait (Michael Knipe writes).

He will give up the territories occupied during the war with Iran and release Iranian prisoners of war will have the effect of increasing the strategic importance to him of Kuwait.

Whitehall sources were sceptical that the Iraqi leader's initiative would amount to a real breakthrough in Iran-Iraq relations. They believe that, because of the importance he has placed in the past on Iraq's control of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, he could still face

domestic difficulties over his sudden about-face. Iran is in a position to break out from its isolation and join international efforts to deal with his old enemy, or to accept President Saddam's diplomatic handshake and work with him in the task of turning the Gulf into an Islamic sea.

"Tehran may be equivocal about sanctions," said Sir John Moberley, a former British ambassador to Baghdad, "but it needs the financial and technological support of the West if it is to carry out a successful reconstruction."

If the rapprochement between the Baghdad and Tehran governments were sufficiently warm to enable Iraq to circumvent the international sanctions it would blow a hole in the international action. But analysts doubted yesterday that Tehran would take such action.

"Any evidence that Iran was facilitating sanctions breaking would be a grave development and would be regarded very seriously by the United States and would double the danger," said Brian Pridham, director of the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies at Exeter University.

An indication of how deliberately President Saddam appears to have been planning his strategy is the fact that he put his peace initiative with Tehran into action before his invasion of Kuwait. His letter to President Rafsanjani disclosed that there had been contact between Tehran and Baghdad on April 24.

After the military ousted the Baathists in the same year, Mr Aziz developed links with the faction inside the party which had its origin in the central town of Tikrit. Inside the Takriti faction, General Saddam led the party's street warfare gangs against rival parties and workers' unions, and Mr Aziz has never looked

HOSTAGES

Foreigners kept in Iraq 'on Saddam's personal orders'

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and other European Community governments were convinced yesterday that the restrictions preventing foreigners from leaving Iraq and Kuwait were imposed specifically by President Saddam Hussein himself.

This conclusion was reached after a meeting on Tuesday between Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, and the heads of ten of the 12 European Community diplomatic missions in Baghdad. A further meeting was scheduled yesterday.

Mr Aziz was taken aback by the vehemence of the representations made to him by the diplomats, according to sources in Whitehall. He said there was nothing he could add to earlier assurances given about the detainees, as the restrictions had been laid down by a higher authority. However, it is believed he will convey the extent of European concern to President Saddam.

Mr Aziz had agreed to see the diplomats to explain President Saddam's proposals for ending the conflict, but the diplomats made it clear they were primarily concerned about the plight of their citizens in Iraq and Kuwait. All ten spoke and, said the sources, the French, German, Belgian and British diplomats expressed themselves with "particular vigour", making it clear that their governments were "seriously exercised" over the matter.

Mr Aziz repeated that the Iraqi authorities had taken

"certain temporary precautionary measures" and that no harm would come to any of those restricted. He suggested that the foreign community was not seriously affected by the precautions.

A Foreign Office spokesman yesterday also expressed the government's dissatisfaction over the Iraqi response to British attempts to recover the body of Douglas Crookery, the Briton shot and killed by an Iraqi soldier while trying to cross the border from Kuwait into Saudi Arabia on Saturday. The spokesman said Tuesday attempting to locate Mr Crookery's body. The Iraqi military authorities had given full co-operation and provided an escort to lieutenant-colonel level throughout the search. A large area had been searched but there was no sign of a body or visible sign of a shooting, the spokesman said.

This was "clearly unsatisfactory", said the spokesman, and instructions had been sent to the British envoys in Baghdad and Kuwait "to request the Iraqis to conduct a full enquiry into these events and to return Mr Crookery's body as a matter of urgency".

● Rapes denied: Two British air stewards, said to have been raped in Kuwait by Iraqi soldiers, have told an embassy official they were not raped and assaulted and are safe and well. The Foreign Office is investigating the rape reports made by a Tunisian stewardess.

CHRONOLOGY OF EIGHT YEARS OF GULF WAR

CHRONOLOGY of the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran:
April 1, 1978: Ayatollah Khomeini, who returned to Tehran in February after the Shah was toppled, proclaims the Islamic Republic of Iran.

July 16: Saddam Hussein, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, replaces Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr as president.

Sept 7, 1980: Saddam claims full sovereignty over the Shatt al-Arab waterway and abrogates the 1975 treaty giving the countries joint control.

Sept 16: Iran shifts residential areas and economic installations on the Iraqi side of the Shatt al-Arab.

Sept 20-22: Iraqi aircraft strike Tehran airport; army begins advance and later reaches the Karun river, several hundred miles into Iran.

Sept 28: UN Security Council adopts resolution 479 calling for ceasefire. Iran rejects call.

May-Oct 1981: Iran begins counter-attack, eventually pushes Iraqis back across the Karun river.

March 29, 1982: Saddam proclaims withdrawal to international borders. Iran ignores the offer and continues to advance.

1983: Fighting continues, with Iran advancing.

Feb 29, 1984: First reports that Iraq has used chemical weapons. UN later confirms them.

Jan 6, 1987: Saddam calls for ceasefire. Iran again rejects it.

Jan 8-14: Iran seizes western bank of Shatt al-Arab, overruns key Iraqi defences, east of Basra, launches new offensive in Melwan area.

May 17: Iraqi missile hits USS Stark in Gulf; 37 sailors killed. Iraq says it was an accident.

May-Oct: Intermittent US-Iranian clashes in the Gulf.

July 3, 1988: USS Vincennes downs Iran Air passenger aircraft, killing 290.

July 18: Iran accepts year-old resolution 598 calling for ceasefire. Iraq has accepted it earlier.

Aug 20: Ceasefire takes hold. UN troops deploy along border.

Aug 25: Indirect Iran-Iraq negotiations begin in Geneva.

SHATT AL-ARAB

Key waterway has played part in at least 25 wars

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FIVE days after President Saddam Hussein scrapped the treaty which gave half the Shatt al-Arab waterway to Iran, his troops crossed that country's border to begin a war that lasted eight years and claimed a million casualties.

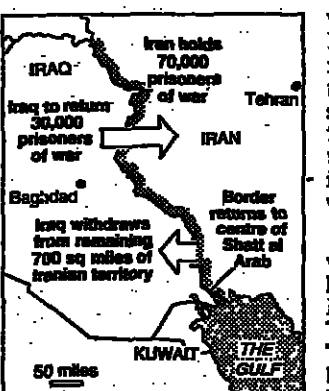
Yesterday he agreed to settle the dispute over the channel which, until the invasion of Kuwait, was Baghdad's main link to the sea.

The dispute between Iran and Iraq over sovereignty of the channel, which forms their southern border, dates back at least 400 years and has featured in at least 25 wars. The 125-mile waterway is formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers at the Iraqi town of Al Qurnah, the fabled site of Eden.

The waterway forms the historical, racial and religious divide between Arabs and the Persians. Iran and Iraq never even agreed on its name. To the Iranians, it is the Arvand Rud or the Arvand river; to the Iraqis it is the Shatt al-Arab, or River of Arabs.

Economically, it has been of vital importance to both countries. West of its entry into the Gulf, Iraq had only 10 miles of coastline. Iran has 1,400 miles of Gulf coastline but needed the waterway for its oil exports. Its importance to Iraq has diminished dramatically since it annexed Kuwait.

Past agreements over its sovereignty have been imprecise. In 1944, a British diplomat commissioned to resolve the issue wrote his hands in despair and commented: "It is a phenomenon of procrastination unparalleled in the chronicles of Oriental diplomacy."



both banks. After the collapse of the Ottoman empire, the kingdom of Iraq was created by the Treaty of Sevres in 1920. The Constantinople Treaty gave unrestricted navigation rights to all nations, but the Persians were unhappy, especially as ports such as Abadan on its eastern bank grew in importance because of oil.

Iraq's sovereignty was reconfirmed by the Frontier Treaty in 1937, but in 1960 the Shah of Iran defied it by appointing his own river pilots and refusing to pay Iraqi pilots. A year later Iraq retaliated by closing the Shatt al-Arab and Iran backed off.

The Shah began to supply Iraq's rebellious Kurds with money and arms, and in April 1969 again refused to pay Iraqi navigation tolls, and sent gunboats down the waterway, Iraq, battling its Kurds, was too busy to respond, which encouraged the Shah to abrogate the 1937 treaty.

In 1975, weakened by the Kurdish revolt, the Shah reluctantly signed the Treaty of Algiers on March 6. The agreement was brokered by President Boumedienne of Algeria and signed by the Shah and Saddam Hussein, then Iraq's foreign minister.

The boundary was drawn down the centre of the Shatt al-Arab's deep-water channel, giving Iran for the first time

well-defined navigation rights. Iran, in return, agreed to end its support of the Kurds. The treaty also gave Iraq three small pockets of land along the frontier to the north. The treaty would be considered invalid if any of its clauses were not observed.

In January 1979 the Shah was toppled, and six months later Saddam Hussein became Iraq's new leader. The new Tehran regime said the Algiers Treaty was not binding as it had been signed by the Shah. President Saddam was no keener on what he had always considered a humiliating treaty and, citing Iran's failure to relinquish the pockets of land, he tore it up.

The Shatt al-Arab was always a side issue but its symbolic importance was immense. President Saddam used it as an excuse to invade Iran when he believed it was weakened by internal upheaval. Since then Iran has insisted the Treaty of Algiers was still valid. President Saddam insisted it was null and void — until yesterday.

President Assad of Syria, the godfather of many a terrorist, who still harbours the chief suspect for the bombing of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, has ordered his troops to fight side by side with Americans in Saudi Arabia.

So an agreement between Iraq and Iran, which was invaded by President Saddam in 1980 and lost more than 500,000 lives in the eight-year war that followed, is not a unique volte face in the context of Middle Eastern diplomacy. The families of

the Iraqi and Iranian dead may grieve that sacrifices were made in vain, but *realpolitik* is the order of the day. Cynical deals between the Iraqis and the Iranians have been made before. In March 1975, in Algeria, the late Shah of Iran kissed cheeks with Vice-President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and suddenly closed the Iranian border to the Kurds, to whom he had promised support until they won autonomy from Baghdad. Iraq's Russian-trained army went on the offensive against the Kurds in the northern highlands, killing thousands of civilians and deporting many more.

Five years later, after the Shah's removal by Khomeini's Islamic revolution, President Saddam tore up the Algiers agreement and launched the invasion of Iran,

saying he had had to sign the agreement with the Shah because he had been militarily weak at the time. Now, a million dead Iranians and Iraqis later, he coolly offers to recognise the treaty once more, because, some would say, he is militarily vulnerable again.

MAN IN THE NEWS

Minister obeys his master's voice



Aziz keeps abreast of Western politics

THE Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, who is thought to have played a part in yesterday's peace offer to Iran, is the most sophisticated member of President Saddam Hussein's retinue (Hazhir Teimourian writes).

He has a degree in English literature and keeps abreast of Western politics. Since joining General Saddam's followers in the Baath party after the short-lived Baathist military coup of 1963, he would seem to have become a party apparatchik, obeying all his orders without questioning their wisdom or humanity.

Born 53 years ago in Baghdad, his family came from the village of Tel Kaif (Pleasure Hill), near the northern city of Mosul in the foothills of the Kurdish mountains. They were humble Christians of the

Nestorian Catholic Church, an ancient sect whose adherents still speak a dialect of the ancient Aramaic language reputed to have been the language of Christ.

After elementary and sec-

ondary education in Baghdad, Mr Aziz studied to become a schoolteacher. He also joined the Arab Socialist Renaissance (Baath) party which was at that time socialist and secular as well as an Arab nationalist party. His friends at the time said that, while the Baath party was always authoritarian, Mr Aziz was a "silent critic" of the leadership of the party in 1963 because he wanted ordinary members to be consulted on decisions.

After the military ousted the Baathists in the same year, Mr Aziz developed links with the faction inside the party which had its origin in the central town of Tikrit. Inside the Takriti faction, General Saddam led the party's street warfare gangs against rival parties and workers' unions, and Mr Aziz has never looked

back. A friend and colleague from that period said Mr Aziz read the left-wing political writings in Europe but he was not a man of independent thought. Recently Iraq's official newspapers published an extract from one of Mr Aziz's speeches addressed to President Saddam that revealed how little autonomy Iraq's cabinet ministers enjoy.

"Sir," Mr Aziz was quoted as saying, "several years ago, when I was minister of information during the war with Iran, I tried to find you to ask your guidance on whether we should allow a foreign book to be distributed in Iraq. You were so busy commanding the war effort of the nation that I could not find you for five days. In the end, we had to ban the book."

Another case close to the hearts of today's Armenians and Kurds was what happened between the treaties of Sevres in 1919 and Lausanne in 1923. In the first, the victorious Western allies promised independence to the two larger minorities of eastern Anatolia. In between, the Western powers became fearful of the potential might of Bolshevism, and found they needed a strong Turkey.

Tangled web of realpolitik dictates Middle East alliances

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

KING Hussein of Jordan has become an ally of President Saddam Hussein, the mobster who dragged the body of his young cousin, King Faisal II of Iraq, through the streets of Baghdad in 1958.

President Assad of Syria, the godfather of many a terrorist, who still harbours the chief suspect for the bombing of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, has ordered his troops to fight side by side with Americans in Saudi Arabia.

So an agreement between Iraq and Iran, which was invaded by President Saddam in 1980 and lost more than 500,000 lives in the eight-year war that followed, is not a unique volte face in the context of Middle Eastern diplomacy. The families of

the Iraqi and Iranian dead may grieve that sacrifices were made in vain, but *realpolitik* is the order of the day. Cynical deals between the Iraqis and the Iranians have been made before. In March 1975, in Algeria, the late Shah of Iran kissed cheeks with Vice-President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and suddenly closed the Iranian border to the Kurds, to whom he had promised support until they won autonomy from Baghdad. Iraq's Russian-trained army went on the offensive against the Kurds in the northern highlands, killing thousands of civilians and deporting many more.

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saying he had had to sign the agreement with the Shah because he had been militarily weak at the time. Now, a million dead Iranians and Iraqis later, he coolly offers to recognise the treaty once more, because, some would say, he is militarily vulnerable again.

Nor was Ayatollah Khomeini's fundamentalist government above indulging in a little *realpolitik*, even with the Great Satan in Washington, as the celebrated case of Oliver North's arms-running to Tehran, for the benefit of the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, made clear. At the time the ayatollah's devout followers were shocked, but were silenced either by threats or with assurances that the great leader knew best the interests of Islam.

Western powers operating in the

Middle East have behaved no differently. The stage was set by Britain, the great power that emerged most victorious from the first world war. While, during the war, Britain promised independence to the Arabs of the Ottoman Empire, in return for their participation in the rebellion against their Turkish sultan caliph in Istanbul, it was also negotiating a secret treaty with France, Russia and Italy that would divide most of the region between the four European empires.

After Russia's defection from the war, the agreement was renegotiated by Sir Mark Sykes of Britain and Georges Picot of France to give Syria and Lebanon to France; southern and southwestern Anatolia — today's Turkey — to Italy; and Britain kept Mesopotamia, southern

Arabia, Trans-Jordan and Palestine. When, in late 1917, the new Bolshevik state in Russia published the text of the secret agreement, the Arabs — and their romantic friend, Captain T E Lawrence — were outraged. But they could do little. Only their conviction that their fate would continue to be decided in foreign conspiracies was confirmed.

Another case close to the hearts of today's Armenians and Kurds was what happened between the treaties of Sevres in 1919 and Lausanne in 1923. In the first, the victorious Western allies promised independence to the two larger minorities of eastern Anatolia. In between, the Western powers became fearful of the potential might of Bolshevism, and found they needed a strong Turkey.

projects

Prison officers ban new inmates at Leeds

The Guinness trial

Jury told to reject view that case lacks losers

By PAUL WILKINSON

JURORS in the Guinness trial were urged yesterday to dismiss from their minds any suggestion that the affair was a victimless crime and not to wonder why they should be concerned if "fat cats" in the City had been affected.

Mr Justice Henry told the jury of seven men and four women, as he began his summing up on the 103rd day of the trial at Southwark Crown Court, that the case was "not a sledghammer to crack a nut".

He told jurors that defence suggestions that the whole affair did not matter because there were no losers was not right, but nor should they heed prosecution calls for their verdicts to be a lesson to powerful City men that their behaviour could not be tolerated.

The judge said: "Your verdicts should be according to the evidence, and not according to the prejudices that we can all enjoy when we are not judging others."

"You can, in your non-judicial role, have the sort of secret pleasure that most of us get through seeing a Rolls-Royce wheelclamped, but when you are judging others you put all prejudice, all political views, all the envy and thought of teaching anyone a lesson, on one side to ensure they get a fair trial."

"You will give these defendants the same quality of fairness as that you would give to a single parent on uppers charged with a social security fraud."

Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of Guinness, and three business figures have denied involvement in an alleged share support operation intended to secure Guinness's successful £2.7 billion takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986.

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, head of Britain's second-largest private company Heron International, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, have denied a total of 22 counts alleging theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act during the takeover battle with Argyll, the supermarket chain, for control of Distillers.

The judge said that Mr Saunders's counsel, Richard Ferguson, QC, had suggested that there would be no losers, but was that correct?

The £25 million paid in success fees and indemnities for people to buy Guinness shares and keep their price high in order to win the bid had to come from somewhere. "If it was not in one person's pocket then it must be in another's," the judge said. "If he had not obtained that money by keeping to the law, then someone else was the loser."

In fact there were four groups of losers if the Crown's case was right, the judge said. Two groups were Guinness shareholders, whose money was paid out unnecessarily in allegedly illegal fees, and Distillers shareholders, who were deprived of an informed choice and might have had a better deal if Argyll had won.

The other two groups were people who bought Guinness shares not knowing that the price was artificially supported, or that a privileged few were getting indemnities, and Argyll shareholders, deprived of victory and the subsequent benefits to their company.

Mr Justice Henry said that the jury might ask: "Why should we not just leave it to the fat cats in the City and the law of the jungle?" The answer was, he said, that there were still many small shareholders, either through unit trusts or direct holdings. They were entitled to the law's protection from a rigged market.

In addition, everyone's pension and life assurance depended on the market's integ-

city. Furthermore, business relied on the market as a source of funds. "If the market is to be a casino where it is rigged for a few rich and privileged players, then the public will not invest in business," the judge said. Companies would have to use more expensive sources of funds.

The judge said that the jury should remember that the huge sums involved were not "some special Monopoly money made to be played with in the City."

He said: "We are talking about real money, made by someone else before it ended where it did. We are talking about money we all earn and spend, the pound that buys a two-zone ticket on the Underground and, until recently, bought a pint of beer."

Mr Justice Henry said that the bid occurred when Guinness was seeking to establish itself as a world leader in its sphere. He told the jury: "One question you could ask yourselves is: 'At that time, was there an ethos of all's fair in takeovers and wars?'"

He said that the evidence had indicated that Mr Saunders was not driven by a sense of personal aggrandisement, but was determined to advance Guinness's fortunes.

If the jury decided that indemnities had been paid, then, in law, there was no question that offences had been committed.

The judge warned the jurors that his summing up would necessarily have to reduce 75 days of evidence and 10 days of speeches by counsel to just a few days from him. As a result, there was a risk that bias might creep in unintentionally, but if there were a point that he had not brought out that they considered relevant, they should not hesitate to include it in their deliberations.

They should also not allow themselves to be prejudiced by any personal likes or dislikes of the witnesses they had seen. In particular, they should bear in mind the strain that Mr Saunders was under as a defendant giving evidence on his own behalf.

In their weighing of the evidence, the jurors should also consider the suggestion that the people involved would have had too much to lose by taking the particular course of action that they were alleged to have taken.

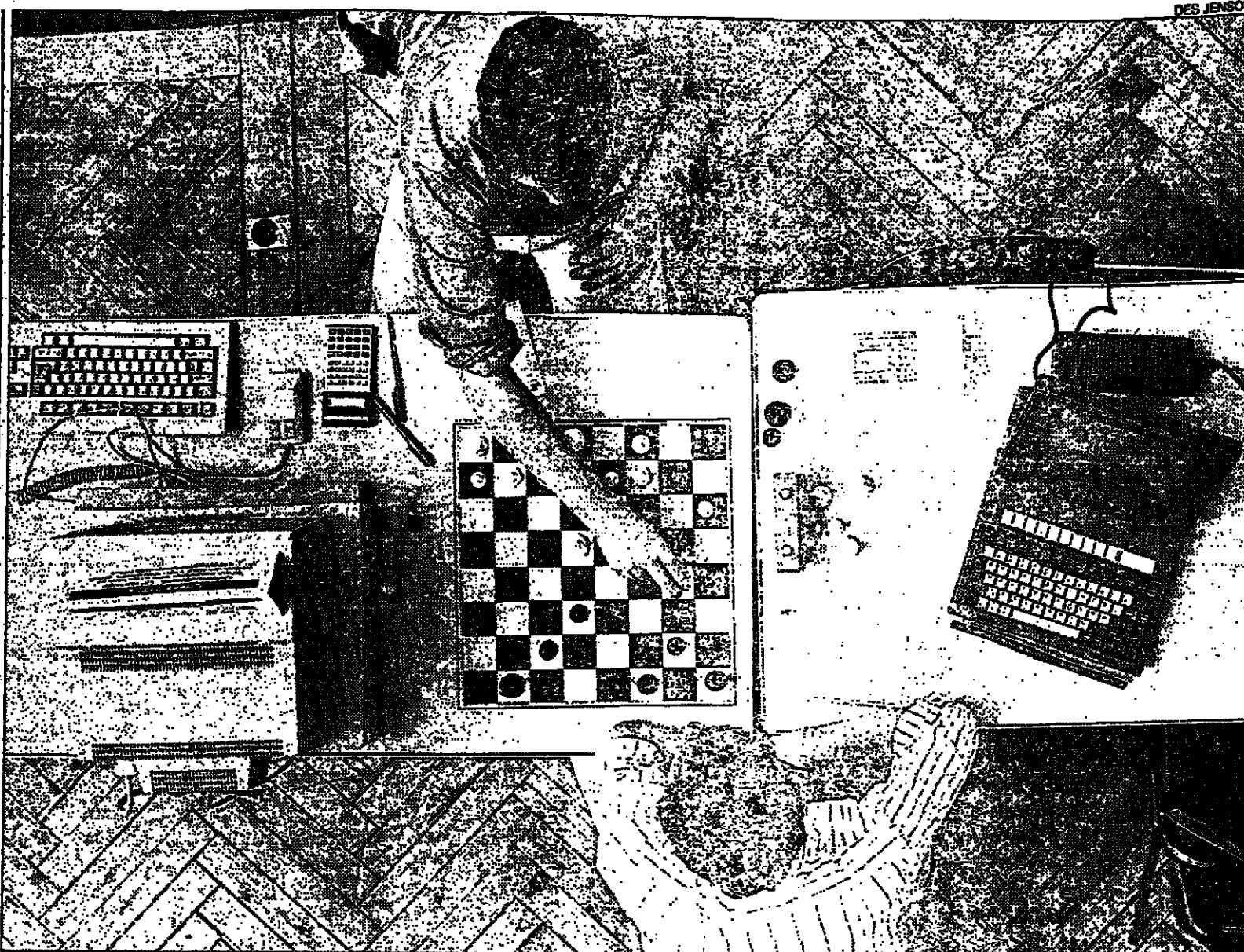
The judge said that an essential issue was Mr Saunders's knowledge of invoices covering payment of success fees and indemnities. The main evidence on the subject came from Guinness's former finance director, Olivier Roux, who claimed that Mr Saunders was aware of them. Mr Saunders had denied all knowledge.

Mr Roux had said that he was aware of the support scheme, but did not think it illegal. If the jury believed that Mr Roux had been an accomplice, they would have to consider whether he had lied about others to save his own skin.

The judge continues his summing up today.



Mr Justice Henry: case concerns the real world



Your move: Chris Whittington, from Oxford Softworks, top, pits his program against that of Reinhold Gellner at the Computer Olympiad

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE world's best game-playing computer programs yesterday logged on and locked horns at Queen Mary College in London. Programmers from all over the world have come to test their skill against one another in 14 different games at the second Computer Olympiad.

Chess and draughts were once the only games computers could play, but yesterday's competitors used programs that can play bridge, backgammon, Scrabble, Chinese chess and Go, as well as less familiar games such as Othello and Awar.

One game, Connect 4, which involves dropping coloured discs into a frame and attempting to create a line of four, has already been conquered by the computer. At last year's Olympiad Japp van den Herik, from the University of Limburg in The Netherlands, announced that he and a collaborator, Victor Allis, had written a Connect 4 program that would invariably win, as long as it made the first move.

Experts like Raymond Keene, *The Times* chess correspondent, salute this

Game-playing computer programs lock horns

achievement as the first non-trivial game to have been completely solved by computers. Noughts-and-crosses was mastered years ago, of course, but even humans have devised unbeatable strategies for that simple game.

The organiser of the Computer Olympiad is David Levy, a British chess-player and computer programmer, who thought it would be useful for people interested in a variety of games to meet, compete, exchange ideas and enjoy themselves. Certainly the atmosphere in the Octagon, Queen Mary College's handsome former library, has more in common with the social chatter of a scientific gathering than the intense concentration of a chess championship. The competitors pay their own way, and entry fees cover the costs of the event, although Mr Levy would like a commercial sponsor.

In one corner there was a

good-tempered clash of ideologies as two Chinese programmers squared up to match their programs in Chinese chess, a game similar to the Western version, but played on a board nine squares by ten. A program written by Professor Shun-Chin Hsu, from the National University in Taiwan, was competing against one written by Professor Huang Shao Long, of the Chinese Chess Centre at Nankai University in Tianjin on mainland China, and brought to London by one of his students, Wang Qinghui. They had never met before.

Near by Paul Lu, of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, was waiting to unleash the superstar of draughts programs, Chinook, on all-comers. Last week Chinook went unbeaten through the Mississippi open draughts championship, and this week it is competing in the US open. In draughts — or check-

threatening to do the same to Awar, a game played throughout Africa. Although Awar has many fewer possible moves than Connect 4, it is a game of bewildering reversals of fortune that are hard to program.

The programmers of Scrabble have created programs, armed with very large dictionaries, which can play that most frustrating of games brilliantly. Bridge, by contrast, is at a relatively primitive stage, with programs that sometimes go on wild bidding sprees.

Next Sunday a Swiss programmer, Ralph Gasser, will arrive with a program that can play Nine Men's Morris, an old English game. Mr Gasser has no idea how good his program is, so he has matched it against a human competitor, the British champion at the game, Michael Sunley.

David Levy sees no danger of the computer destroying the games it now plays so well. "It will enhance the games, create interest in them and maybe teach humans to play them better," he said. "After all, world champions haven't anyone to teach them how to get better."

The team from the University of Limburg who conquered Connect 4 were back,

MPs eat their way to a £2m surplus

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE refreshment department at the House of Commons is sitting on a cash mountain of more than £2 million and has few firm plans to dispose of the money, according to a report published yesterday.

The surplus, boosted by profits of £289,000 last year, has accumulated over the past 10 years and is apparently becoming something of a headache to MPs charged with supervising an organisation that serves 300,000 meals a year and operates 20 outlets.

The rapidly growing surplus is highlighted by John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, in a report to MPs from Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker. The implication is that it should be reduced. The disclosure stunned Tory backbenchers, who have been brought up on a folk memory of catering losses that reached £600,000 in 1976 and led to the operation being put on a new footing in 1979.

They combined suggestions for how the money might be spent, including the idea of a swimming pool, with tributes to Sir Charles Irving, chairman of the catering subcommittee, for creating such a healthy balance sheet.

Mr Bourn, who is responsible for checking public spending, acknowledges that the surplus has been used to defray the costs of capital works at the Commons. For instance, £120,000 was spent on the new terrace pavilion and £320,000 on improvements to the members' tea room and the press cafeteria. However, no new works were undertaken last year, he says.

Mr Bourn suggests that the opening of the first phase of the new parliamentary building next year should be accompanied by a review of catering arrangements, the aim being to find an "appropriate way" of reducing the surplus.

However, sources close to the catering subcommittee pointed out that moves were afoot to overhaul the management of the refreshment department, which employs more than 260 permanent staff and rethink its financial future. Independent management consultants are conducting the review.

House of Commons Commission: House of Commons Refreshment Department Account 1989-90 (Stationery Office: £3.10)

Science, page 14

Pollution move on crematoria emissions

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTER pollution control regulations may be needed for crematoria after studies by a British scientist have shown that cremated teeth may carry an environmental risk.

Dr Alan Mills, of Leicester University, says that, during cremation, dental fillings could release dangerous levels of a highly toxic vapour. The fillings contain mercury alloy, harmless in teeth but, as a vapour, hazardous to the human nervous system even at very low levels.

"Friends of the Earth yesterday called for further studies to assess the risk. Fiona Weir, air pollution campaigner with the group, suggested that undertakers should remove fillings before cremation, or install filters in crematoria chimneys."

The environmental protection act, expected in the autumn, will require crematoria to monitor some emission levels. The health department denied there was a risk to people, as temperatures reached in crematoria were unlikely to vaporise mercury.

Science, page 14

Campaign to reduce congestion in parks

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to ease congestion and tighten planning laws in national parks will be launched during the August bank holiday when, if the weather is fine, pressure on the parks will be at its most intense.

The campaign, which is being co-ordinated by the Council for National Parks, is calling for a new act of Parliament to protect the parks. A review panel appointed by the Countryside Commission is considering the future of the parks and is due to publish its report in December.

Chris Bonington, the mountaineer and writer, will make a radio appeal for funds on August 26. The Council for National Parks represents more than 40 voluntary groups with an interest in the parks, including the National Trust, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the Youth Hostel Association.

The council has presented its own agenda for the parks to the review panel and Amanda Nobbs, its secretary, said yesterday that restriction of vehicles was top priority. The campaign also wants the creation of national parks for Scotland, and four new parks for England and Wales.

"We want no more traffic jams in national parks," Miss Nobbs said. Traffic came to a complete standstill during the 1988 August bank holiday. The council has dismissed traffic management schemes or entry fees, which it feels run counter to the spirit of the parks, demanding instead vehicle-free areas with "a long walk in". Miss Nobbs said: "People who want to see and enjoy fragile areas should be prepared to make the effort."

The campaign is also calling for planning restrictions to be tightened so that there is a presumption against any development. "We feel the onus should be on the prospective developers to prove that their schemes are in the interests of the parks," Miss Nobbs said.

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Hitch for dipped twitchers

By RONALD FAUX

THERE is much twitching on the river Weaver in Cheshire, where bird enthusiasts have spotted a solitary long-billed dowitcher blown far off course across the Atlantic.

The twitchers, bird watchers who respond immediately to the sighting of a species they have not ticked off their list, have flocked to the area with their binoculars and telephoto lenses to spot the small russet-coloured riverbank bird with bright plumage and a feeding style likened to a sewing machine needle.

The "birders" rank the dowitcher as a "biggie", not quite a "crippler" or a sighting so spectacular it renders the

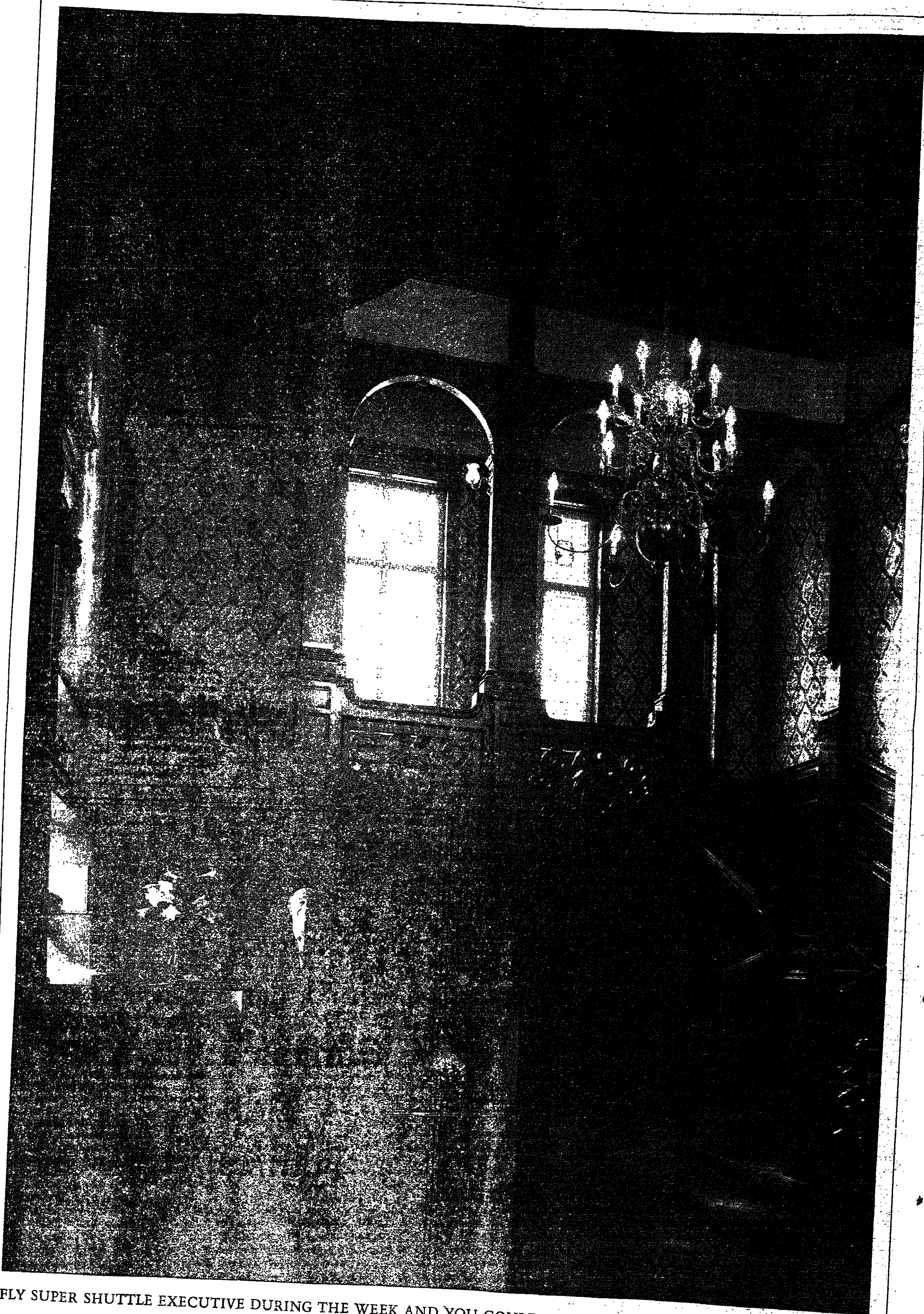
twitcher speechless. Birders who accidentally stumble on the sighting of a riverbank rarity are said to have "jammed in on a big twitch".

"It's a curious language, probably designed to keep talk to a minimum so more time can be spent watching," one birder said of his fellow twitchers.

Dedicated birders may be in Fair Isle one day and Lundy the next, chartering aircraft and boats when they hear a target bird has put in an appearance. A twitcher who has spotted a target that has been eluding him is said to have "unblocked". "Some quarters think

twitchers are a bit mad or akin to train spotters but that is unfair," the birder said. "They help bring an almost diagnostic focus to ornithology which has been a benefit." Their sightings may give the first hint of significant changes in migration patterns or colonisation or of threat to a particular species.

But for the twitchers yesterday nothing stirred apart from a little stunt, a couple of redshank, Canada geese waddling on a mudflat and a greater striped traffic cone drifting sluggishly towards the Manchester ship canal. There was no twitch of a dowitcher. The birders had "dipped".



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A-level pass rate confounds fear of drop in standards

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE A-level results for more than 200,000 sixth-formers that will arrive at schools today are slightly better than last year, figures from the eight exam boards show.

Earlier this week it had been suggested that results could be worse than in previous years because the students were the first to take A-levels since the GCSE replaced O-levels two years ago.

Critics had said that the GCSE did not stretch bright pupils and that it failed to prepare them for the more academically rigorous A-levels, particularly in subjects such as mathematics, science and modern languages.

Figures released this morning by the exam boards, however, show that figures in these subjects are unchanged or slightly improved. The total entries have risen by more than 15,000 to 657,421.

Passes in grades A to C, essential for most university entries, are up by 0.7 per cent across all subjects. Passes in grades A to E, sufficient to continue higher education, are up 1 per cent to 77 per cent. Passes at A grade have risen by 0.2 per cent.

The biggest increases in the pass rate are in music, up 5.1 per cent, and general studies, up 4.5 per cent. There has been no substantial decline in pass rates in any subject.

Howard King, secretary of the Oxford and Cambridge board and spokesman for the examining boards, said: "It is good news for children. We do

not have a disastrous fall in standards."

The results were also welcomed by Michael Fallon, the junior education minister.

"These are the first A-level candidates who sat the first full GCSE exams. It is, therefore, all the more encouraging for the future of both A-levels and the GCSE to see results of this kind," he said.

"I am delighted that we have seen an increase in the A-level pass rate, to 77 per cent, particularly in a year which has seen an increase in the numbers taking A-levels," he added.

Derek Fatchett, a Labour front-bench education spokesman, said that the results had proved right-wing critics of the GCSE wrong. He added that teachers and industrialists were concerned about the 6.9 per cent decline in pupils' studying mathematics and the 5.1 per cent fall in students taking physics.

More pupils are studying modern languages, with the number of students taking French up by 20.7 per cent, German by 21.5 per cent and Spanish by 12.3 per cent. The number of pupils taking business studies is also up 14.5 per cent, technology is up 11.5 per cent and geography has risen by 8.6 per cent. Entries for classics have dropped by 11.8 per cent, the biggest decline.

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry said that a broader A-level system should be introduced to allow students to

study languages and sciences.

"The decline in the number of applicants for maths and physics is disappointing from industry's point of view - it could exacerbate the skills shortage in the long run."

Stuart Sexton, director of the Independent Primary and Secondary Education Trust, said that the figures did not indicate any significant change from last year, but that this in itself did not mean much.

"The whole system of marking is subjective and there is no year-by-year norm. It is perfectly possible for the boards to decide that a certain percentage of candidates will achieve A grades and then mark accordingly. There are people who believe that A-levels are too hard or too different for pupils who have taken GCSEs, but this would not show up in these figures if the exam boards stick to usual pass rates," Mr Sexton said.

George Turnbull, of the Associated Examining Board, said, however: "It is absolute nonsense to suggest that we mark to achieve a certain pass rate. We put a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure that the standards to achieve each grade are the same from year to year."

In the second year of the AS-level, overall pass rates have risen by 2.7 per cent to 64.2 per cent. The examination, roughly equivalent to half an A-level, was introduced to broaden sixth-form studies.

Mr Fallon said that the AS-level pass rate was showing signs of improvement and that he expected it to rise even further when more schools taught the examination.

Two charitable trusts have stepped in to prevent Dartington College of Arts, near Totnes, Devon, from becoming the first institution to go bankrupt since polytechnics and colleges were made independent of local education authorities last year (John O'Leary writes).

A rescue package for the college was announced yesterday involving an association with Polytechnic South West, in Plymouth. The Dartington Hall Trust and another, which has insisted on anonymity, are writing off £400,000, debts while the polytechnic takes over management functions and conducts an academic review.

Students will not receive advice from their national union on whether to take advantage of the government's loan scheme, which begins next month.

Militants' demands for a boycott of the scheme and a campaign of sit-ins to force its withdrawal were rejected by the executive of the National Union of Students at a meeting in Birmingham yesterday. But the executive drew back from plans to organise a mass take-up of loans and decided to leave the decision to individuals.

Although local student unions will be supplied with information on the procedure for applying for a loan, the NUS will only encourage its 1.2 million members to apply for the access funds that form part of the scheme.



Closed: locked doors at the Lowndes Queensway store at Plough Lane, Wimbledon, yesterday after the furniture chain went into receivership

No soft cushion for falling Queensway

By ANGELA MACKAY

RETAILING can be a soap opera, with fortunes made and lost, and reputations tarnished. So it is with Lowndes Queensway.

Sir Philip Harris, aged 48, who was Hambro Businessman of the Year in 1983 and was knighted in 1985, was considered a loser when he sold out two years ago, but yesterday, after receivers were appointed to the mostly out-of-town carpet and furniture retailer, he was hailed as a shrewd, perceptive fellow who dealt at precisely the right time.

While his former empire lay mouldering in the hands of liquidators from Ernst & Young, the accountancy practice, Sir Philip, as he is affectionately known, was basking in the brilliant sunshine off the Côte d'Azur on his 98 ft yacht, pondering the form of the racehorses in his stable. He relinquished control of the family business, Harris Queensway, to Jimmy Gulliver in June 1988 for £450 million, pocketing £69 million.

With this cash, Sir Phil, who once spent £75,000 on Koi carp for his Kent fishpond, continued a sumptuous lifestyle that includes expensive sponsorship of a wide range of racing events. He is the main sponsor of David Broome, the show jumper.

Exit Sir Phil, from the group he built from three carpet stores left to him at 15 by his father, and enter Mr Gulliver, a canny Scot seeking a recovery play in the retail sector after his Argyll Group, now called Safeway, lost the battle for Distillers to Guinness.

When Jimmy Gulliver, aged 60, walked away from the group, renamed under him Lowndes Queensway, in January, the company was worth just £27 million and had debts of £160 million. Mr Gulliver, however, remained a millionaire several times over and retired to tinker with his five cars, a Rolls-Royce, a vintage Bentley, a Range Rover, a Porsche, and a BMW coupe.

At the same time, a £70 million rescue package was

tabled under the aegis of Norman Ireland, former chairman of Bowater, but it was too late.

The deal was the worst of Mr Gulliver's career and overshadowed his 23 years as a successful food retailer, firstly with Fine Fare and then as head of Argyll.

Mr Ireland and his backer, the merchant bank Charterhouse, tried to engineer a recovery, but in May disclosed a crippling net loss of £80 million for 1989 and forecast a similar disaster this year.

Lowndes first tried to go up-market under Sir Phil, but ill-considered changes in merchandise and runaway purchasing stymied the move. At one stage, the company had 27,000 barbecue forks in stock but sold an average of only seven forks a week.

Mr Gulliver also tried to dress mutton as lamb. Gone were the swirling patterned carpets and the lurid green shopfronts, but the quality of stock was just not up to it, and the days of shopping in giant sheds looked finished.

Furniture sales dropped 22 per cent, year on year, while carpet sales slid 17 per cent. The group's main customer base, young families with mortgages, were hit by rising interest rates, and smartening the sitting room went to the bottom of their priorities.

The group sold Hamleys, the toy store in Regent Street, Harveys, the soft furnishings

chain, and Poundstretcher, the variety supermarket chain, but debt still mounted. Idiosyncratic methods of cost-cutting, such as taking out every second light bulb in the big stores, were measures of a desperate management.

Yesterday, Ernst & Young was studying the remains of Lowndes Queensway. The auditors said that the group

had debts of £300 million and would show a loss of "several million pounds" this year. They declared all 270 stores closed for stocktaking and said that 4,000 jobs were at risk. The group's shares were suspended yesterday at 14p, valuing the group at £12 million.

This year, the City has grown used to failure, but after

a 12-month struggle, Lowndes Queensway's attempt to stay afloat turned into a protracted, painful death. The knock-on effects are worrying. Furniture suppliers are owed at least £30 million, and, because they rank after the banks, several risk bankruptcy unless Ernst & Young can rapidly devise a scheme of arrangement.

Consumer juggernaut falters as doors close on summer specials

By JOHN YOUNG

A SMALL, handwritten note was yesterday stuck to the door of the Queensway furniture store by the side of the A4 at Brentford, west London. "Sorry we are closed today due to stocktaking," it said.

Two elderly ladies turned away looking puzzled, unaware that the company that owned the chain of stores had that morning crashed into the arms of the receivers, a victim of the belief that consumer purchasing power and the credit financing it would go on forever expanding.

Inside, a handful of shirt-sleeved staff stood in a small pool of light. When beckoned, one came to the door but declined to open it. A request for more information, shouted through the thick glass, pro-

duced a shake of the head. A few miles away at another store near the Kingston bypass a little more information was forthcoming. A type-written notice read: "At the request of the directors, our bankers have appointed administrative receivers who are reviewing the future trading of the company. Whilst this review is taking place, stores will be closed for stocktaking."

They were also "urgently reviewing" whether it would be possible to deliver orders to customers who had paid deposits, or whether it would be necessary for them to make an insurance claim. A woman reading the notice said she was expecting delivery of a suite of furniture for which she had paid in full. She appeared

remarkably cheerful. Outside was a signboard advertising a "symphony of kitchens... over £1,000 of appliances for just £107... first come, first served". Posters proclaimed "summer specials", one third off and 10 months' interest-free credit.

Another woman walked up and read the notice. Had she bought anything and not received delivery? No, no, she worked there. Had she been sent home? No, it was not like that at all. She would be at work again today as usual.

At Wimbledon was another darkened store. On the door hung a notice: "Queensway gives you a written guarantee of value, quality and service."

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Provisional A-level results - June 1990 (England and Wales only)

Grade percentages gained in each subject (1989 results in brackets)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	Number
Art/Design	7.3	12.7	20.5	25.7	19.5	11.8	4.4	31.881							
Biology	17.6	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Chemistry	17.6	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Class Studies	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Computing	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Economics	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
English	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
French	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Geography	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
German	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
History	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Home Econ	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Maths	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Music	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Other Languages	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Physics	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Religion Studies	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Science	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Social Sci	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Spanish	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Technology	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Welsh	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Other subs	18.1	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	32.203							
Total	8.1	18.5	13.4	15.7	16.4	13.5	22.3	44.746							
	8.1	18.5	13.4	15.7	16.4	13.5	22.3	44.746							

1989 results are provisional. 1990 results in brackets are final. Percentages have been rounded to add up to 100. These lists cover a range of related subjects. For example, the list includes all subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics. For Languages includes all languages except French, German, Spanish and Welsh. A-Essex, N-England, U-unclassified.

22 soccer fans held in dawn raids

By PETER DAVENPORT

DETECTIVES yesterday arrested 22 people in dawn raids on homes throughout the country as a result of the violent disorder at the Bournemouth-Leeds United game at the end of the football season earlier this year.

Eighteen people were held in Yorkshire by up to 70 officers from Dorset and West Yorkshire, and suspects were also arrested at homes in Milton Keynes, Oxford, St Albans and Barrow-in-Furness.

Eight were charged with a variety of offences, including violent disorder, receiving stolen goods and being present at a football match while the subject of an exclusion order, and will appear before magistrates in Bournemouth on Monday.

Two were released without charge, one remanded on bail pending further enquiries, and 11 are still being questioned.

Yesterday's raids were part of "Operation Bournemouth", set up after two days of disturbances in which thousands of pounds worth of property in Bournemouth, piers-by-attacked, and 30 officers injured. Nine hundred officers, including reinforcements from five counties and London, confronted 2,000 marauding fans who launched a concerted attack on police. The operation is continuing.

Limits on legal aid could cut 'needless' two-lawyer cases

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Consumers' Association and National Consumer Council yesterday called for tougher action by courts to limit the granting of legal aid, in an attempt to make the legal profession and needless double-manning on cases.

David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, said: "The court authorities will have to be a lot tougher. They will have to say, 'this case only needs one lawyer. You can have two, but we will only pay for one.'"

Figures released by the Lord Chancellor's department show that moves to encourage greater use of one lawyer instead of two in suitable cases had failed. A deal was agreed between the department and both branches of the legal profession, barristers and solicitors, almost two years ago. This was designed to encourage more use of Queen's Counsel without a junior barrister to help them, and of barristers without solicitors in attendance.

QCs have acted without juniors in only eight out of more than 1,700 cases in the past 15 months, however, and barristers without solicitors in fewer than 10 per cent of cases identified as suitable. Mr Tench said that the lesson to be learned from the figures was that it took a long time for consumers to feel the benefit of any reforms in the legal profession.

Mr Tench said that greater restrictions on the use of two

lawyers by limiting legal aid would probably lead to "howls of protest". He added: "But unless the lawyers are squealing, nothing is really happening."

Tamara Gorieli, senior legal policy officer of the National Consumer Council, said yesterday that the court authorities dealing with legal aid would have to take steps to decide how many legal representatives to pay for and fund them appropriately.

She said: "The courts and legal services bill provides for clients to be able to choose whether to have a solicitor or a barrister to represent them, and we have been calling for clients to be given quotations as to how much such representation will cost them. If they know from the start

whether it will be one lawyer or two, a QC or not, they have a much better idea of what the case will cost."

The Law Society is drawing up a new professional practice rule to oblige solicitors to disclose their rates to clients. The draft rule was due to be before the July meeting of the law society council, its governing body, for approval. Drafting difficulties have, however, delayed it until October.

Few barristers publicise their charging rates but, with solicitor-advocates coming in to the market, the Bar would be under pressure to disclose such rates, Miss Gorieli added.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, yesterday defended the profession's double-manning. He said that the figures clearly demonstrated that the profession was not overmanned and that two counsel were only used where necessary.

"You simply cannot do a case which will take more than a day or so without having two hands to the pump, and it shows that the present practice is essential to the proper working of the system," he said.

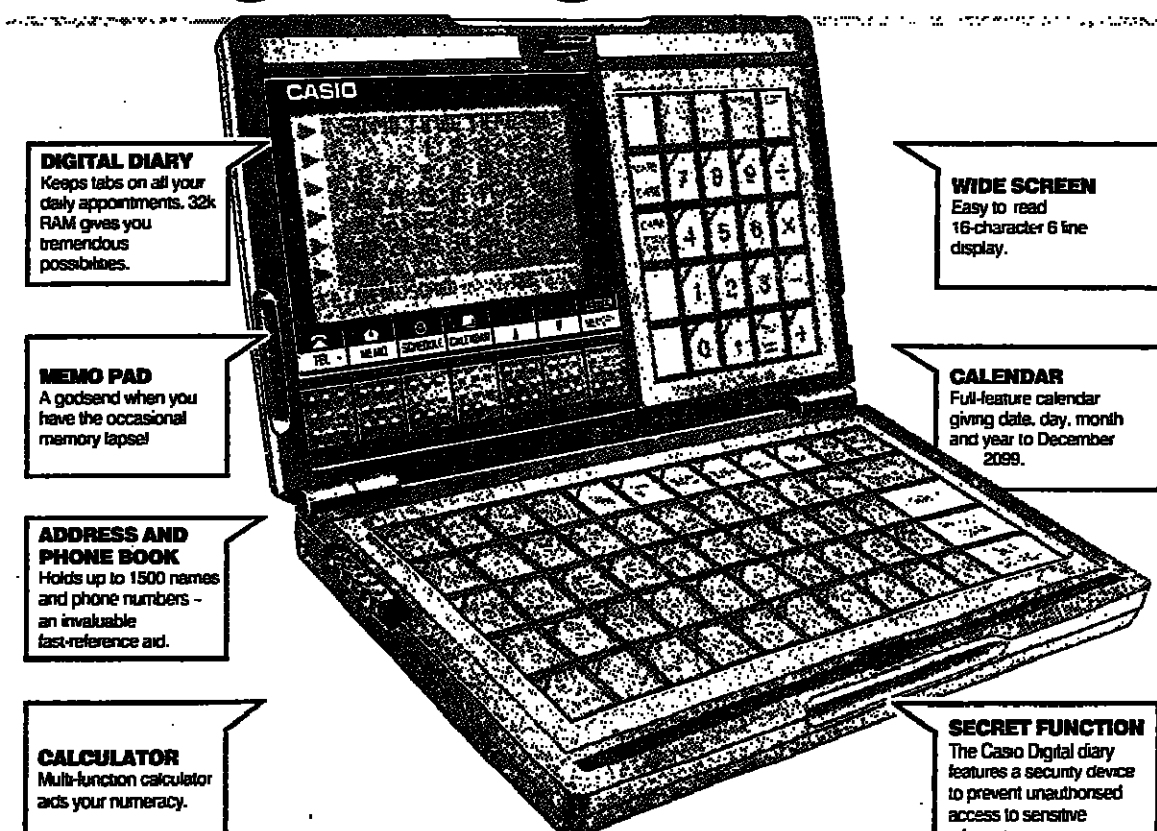
"The real truth is, you need a solicitor to hold the papers and collect the material, and if the case is going to last, no one person can give it undivided attention."



Lord Hailsham: denies profession overmanned

Leading article, page 11

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Taylor holds whip hand in Liberia peace manoeuvring

From Philip Jacobson in Freetown

HOPES of a breakthrough in the savage conflict in Liberia rose yesterday when General Arnold Quiapo, the Ghanaian commanding officer of the West African peacekeeping force now assembling here, flew to Banjul, where he is expected to meet Charles Taylor, the leader of Liberia's most powerful rebel faction.

Mr Taylor's opposition to the involvement of Nigerian and Ghanaian units in the peacekeeping force, on the ground that both nations were staunch supporters of besieged President Doe of Liberia, has so far stalled the peacekeeping force from intervening in the civil war. The sudden decision to convene fresh talks with him in the Gambian capital could indicate that a deal more acceptable to his Liberian National Patriotic Front is being worked out to enable the peace force to take up their positions without fear of attack.

The Banjul meeting under-

lines the strength of Mr Taylor's hand in the negotiations for a ceasefire in the ravaged capital, Monrovia. With his guerrillas now poised for a final assault on Samuel Doe's fortified mansion, he has adroitly established himself as a central figure in the diplomatic manoeuvring.

His decision to allow a convoy of foreigners to be driven through his territory to Buchanan for evacuation by US military helicopters earlier this week was clearly part of a strategy to convince outsiders that he cannot be excluded from any agreement.

The macabre fiasco of his Patriotic Front's claim to have ambushed and killed Prince Johnson, the rival rebel leader, only for him to pop up on the BBC World Service a few hours later, does not seem to have done Mr Taylor any serious damage in the eyes of all concerned. The latest talks will be particularly welcome to those responsible for organising the peacekeeping force. Although most of the 2,500 troops are now in Sierra Leone, there is still no vestige of an effective central command, let alone of preparations for an imminent departure to Liberia.

At General Quiapo's headquarters in Wilberforce Barracks yesterday the only sign of activity was a couple of Ghanaian privates examining the innards of an elderly typewriter. In another corner of their office, a corporal was sifting through a pile of maps of Liberia that looked suspiciously like those issued by the tourism ministry in the days before the country was engulfed by civil war.

According to the Ghanaian "spick-and-span" regimental sergeant-major, the only West African officer in barracks that day was from Guinea. A tall and erect captain, he regretted that no information could be issued without the approval of *mon général* and, alas, General Quiapo had just departed for Banjul. When might he be back? A smile, a graceful shrug. "Perhaps soon," he said.

The evident unreadiness of the peacekeeping force appears to reflect the political differences that persist beneath the surface of West Africa's unprecedented decision to abandon long-held principles of non-intervention in another country's internal affairs to halt the carnage in Liberia.

While Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia are looking for a peaceful separation of the warring factions, both Guinea and Nigeria — the latter the regional military superpower — may be looking rather further ahead to what comes after the Doe regime.

Besides their previous backing for this tyrant, both nations are still smarting from Mr Taylor's calculated attacks on their embassies in Monrovia and several thousand of their citizens are still confined behind guerrilla lines.

In private, sources here suggest that Lagos in particular would not mind handing the Patriotic Front's ragtag fighters a short, sharp lesson in realities of discipline and firepower. That thought seems to have also occurred to Mr Taylor, who may well be aiming to make non-opposition to the peacekeeping force conditional upon a scaling down of the presence of Nigerian and Guinean troops on the ground.

Heston attacks union ban

From Sam Kiley in Los Angeles

AMERICAN Equity officers, who will reconsider their ban today on Jonathan Pryce, the British actor, from performing in the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*, the London hit musical, have incurred the wrath of Charlton Heston, who has resigned his membership and demanded that the union "get out of the casting business".

Heston, who won an Oscar for his 1959 title role in *Ben Hur*, entered the battle for artistic freedom with a withering letter to the union which he accused of being "obscenely racist" for banning Pryce, who is white, from playing the part of a Eurasian pimp when the show transfers to New York.

His attack, a week after the banning prompted Cameron Macintosh, the show's producer, to cancel the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*, will increase pressure on the union to drop the ban, as many members are uneasy.

Heston, who was an active member of Equity, which represents mostly stage actors, and a former president of the influential Screen Actors' Guild (a post also held by Ronald Reagan) said he was deeply ashamed of the union.

In an article published in the *Los Angeles Times*, which devoted a whole page for and against the ban, he said: "As an actor and director, I've always assumed the idea was to get the best actor for the part, no matter what colour he or she was. I've never spoken to a single working actor who didn't endorse this."

He said that four years ago he had forged an agreement with British Equity to allow an almost all-American cast to come to the West End "because the actors were right for the parts".

A spokeswoman for Mr Macintosh in London said that it was "very nice he feels so strongly about it". But Pryce, who is still performing in *Miss Saigon* in Drury Lane, has said that he thought it was unlikely he could play the part in New York after the controversy.

Red Cross takes stock

Geneva — The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was reassessing the position of its 19-strong delegation in the Lebanon and would take "whatever steps are considered necessary" for their protection (Alan McGregor writes).

The statement coincided with a Swiss television report that a ransom of \$4 million (£2.1 million) was demanded for two ICRC technicians, Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, held hostage for 10 months and released on August 9 and 14.

Brando bail

Los Angeles — Christian Brando, son of Marlon Brando, was ordered to be released on \$2 million (£1.06 million) bail after the actor put up his Hollywood mansion as security. Brando huffed his son, charged with murdering his half-sister's boyfriend. (Reuter)

Troops on alert

Ottawa — Several thousand Canadian troops were moved close to the scene of recent armed confrontations between Mohawk Indians and Quebec police. The army said the troops were prepared to act quickly if needed.

Treasure ruling

New York — A US judge has ruled that five British insurance companies were not entitled to a share of the hundreds of millions of dollars in gold found in a shipwreck off South Carolina.

UN welcome

New York — The UN Security Council unanimously endorsed Liechtenstein's application for UN membership and welcomed its entry next month as the 160th member. (Reuter)

Protest toll

Santo Domingo — A total of eight people have died in a general strike to protest against the Dominican Republic's new austerity programme. (Reuter)

Congo amnesty

Brazzaville — President Sassou-Nguesso said all political prisoners would be freed for the Congo's 30th anniversary of independence. (AFP)

Marcos sale

Manila — The Philippines plans to sell silver and art collected by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. (Reuter).



Polar symbol: Captain Anatoli Lamekov handing Dennis Potera, a West German student, a symbolic key to the North Pole. At 15, Dennis was the youngest of the passengers from nine countries who sailed on the first cruise to the pole in the Soviet icebreaker *Rossiya*.

Moscow readers study the case of Trotsky's killer

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

SINCE day-to-day press censorship was abolished on August 1, Soviet journalists have enjoyed a series of adventurous excursions into historical archives. Yesterday in the official trade union paper, *Trud*, they delved into a forbidden topic with an interview with the brother of Ramón

Mercader, Trotsky's assassin, who died in 1978 in Cuba and was buried in Moscow with a headstone inscribed with the pseudonym: Ramón Ivanovich López.

Luis Mercader, interviewed in Spain, told how his brother (whom he described as a "communist fanatic") died a disillusioned man after being held a virtual prisoner in the Soviet Union before ending his days in Cuba.

His family campaigned unsuccessfully to have his real name and a proper memorial erected over his grave. "This is unjust and it is time to stand up for Ramón," his brother told the *Trud* interviewer. "It is time he was given back his name and the whole truth was told."

But, the interviewer responded, "it cannot be ruled out that in the era of full glasnost things will be called by

their proper names, and it may be said, for instance, that Ramón Mercader committed a crime (political murder) and that the title 'Hero of the Soviet Union' is not awarded to such people". Luis answered: "My brother, Ramón Mercader, was given an assignment. And he fulfilled it... What a rare and tragic fate it is to be crossed off the list of people who once lived on this sinful Earth."

Christian Democrat chief in Stasi link

From Gerhard Stechen in Bonn

EAST Germany's leading political party suspended its general secretary yesterday after allegations that he had worked as an informant for the communist secret police.

The Christian Democratic Union of Lothar de Maizière, the prime minister, said that Martin Kirchner had been stripped of his duties pending an investigation.

The dismissal came hours after the West German news magazine *Stern* said it had evidence from former secret police members that Herr Kirchner had worked for the agency as a paid informant for 15 years.

Horst Korbella, the deputy party chairman, said the party had planned to question Herr Kirchner before the magazine report was made public. Herr Korbella said the party was concerned over evidence from an investigation of Volkshammer deputies suggesting that some had had ties to the Stasi.

Stern quoted one former Stasi officer as saying that Herr Kirchner "was one of the most important informants" in East Germany.

● Honour lost: Hitler and Göring have been stripped of their last honours in Germany. Officials in Potsdam yesterday voted to strike the former Nazi leaders from the roster of honorary citizens. Embarrassed officials said the East German communists assumed that Soviet military law imposed after the second world war removed prominent Nazis from city honours roles, but the Soviet law carried no such provisions.

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including wood preservatives that provide lasting colour and protection to all exterior wood. For truly excellent results, good preparation is essential. We offer specialist primers for a wide range of surfaces.

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Pure Brilliant White 5 Ltr. £15.99

B&Q Professional Vinyl Matt or Silk Emulsion

High quality matt or silk finish for interior walls and ceilings, gives smooth, well-bound, washable film.

Pure Brilliant White 5 Ltr. £8.99

Colours 2.5 Ltr. £9.49

Colours 5 Ltr. £16.99

Pure Brilliant White 10 Ltr. £19.99

B&Q Professional Smooth Masonry Paint

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Pure Brilliant White 5 Ltr. £12.99

Colours 5 Ltr. £13.99

Pure Brilliant White 10 Ltr. £23.99



B&Q Professional Acrylic Primer

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Pure Brilliant White 750ml. £6.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5 Ltr. £12.99

B&Q Professional Primer Sealer

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Off White 2.5 Ltr. £12.99

B&Q Professional Metal Primer

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Equi de Nil 750ml. £6.99

Equi de Nil 2.5 Ltr. £12.99

B&Q Professional Aluminium Wood Primer

Oil-based wood primer for interior and exterior bare timber surfaces including softwood, hardwood, plywood and chipboard.

Grey 750ml. £6.99

B&Q Professional Wood Primer

Oil-based primer for interior and exterior bare timber surfaces including softwood, hardwood, plywood and chipboard.

Pure Brilliant White 750ml. £6.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5 Ltr. £12.99

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Clear, unpigmented oil-based primer for bonding down masonry surfaces prior to application of B&Q Smooth Masonry Paint.

Clear 5 Ltr. £13.99



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Pure Brilliant White 10 Ltr. £19.99
Colours 10 Ltr. £21.99

Son of Zia returns to drum up support for political mission

From Christopher Thomas in Islamabad

IAZ ul-Haq, son of the late military ruler, General Zia, has returned to Pakistan after a 17-year absence to pursue a mission to "carry on my father's legacy". He says people remember the former leader as honest, incorruptible and a good Muslim.

Mr Ijaz, aged 38, has addressed 66 public meetings in 52 towns in the past month in a drive to build up a political following. He says he is only here to sit in my car and a thousand people come to kiss my hand.

Tomorrow he will move into the national limelight as principal speaker at a rally at the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad to commemorate the second anniversary of his father's death.

At precisely 3.51pm, the time of the still unexplained aircraft crash in Punjab that killed Zia, Mr Ijaz will call on the nation to offer prayers. He says he has proof that the crash was sabotage. "What bothers me is that no criminal investigation ever took place. At the right time I may go to the courts. Everybody is covering it up."

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the caretaker prime minister, will be out of town tomorrow in what is clearly a diplomatic absence during a day of celebrations in Zia's memory.

Mr Ijaz has been appointed chief organiser of the powerful Muslim League, the first sign that he is starting to move rapidly through the right-wing political ranks. "I want to hold the forces of the right to-

gether," he said. "I am 101 per cent a democrat. I would be the first to oppose martial law." Mr Ijaz is considering setting up his own party if the Muslim League refuses to quit the caretaker government, which he says includes undesirable elements. "I have a misunderstanding with Jatoi on the make-up of the cabinet," he said.

He thought that disillusion with the new administration had already set in and it would take only one or two more "bad decisions" for people to lose faith in it completely. Like many on the right wing, he wants to replace the parliamentary system with a presidential form of government. Mr Ijaz doubted whether elections would be held on October 24, as promised. He also doubted if the poll, when it was eventually held, would be fair.

Hundreds of posters of Zia have appeared throughout Islamabad this week as his son addressed public meetings to press the theme that his misunderstood father was a simple man of the people. Mr Ijaz said his father brought stability to the country. He was from a lower middle-class background and could relate to the poor. "His way of living was simple. He lived in a small army house. He was a practising Muslim and showed it from his habits and dress. These are the things that people relate to now."

Mr Ijaz rejects any suggestion that his father made a fortune while running the country. "Where is the for-

tune?" he said, noting that he is living in a borrowed house. He is having his own house built out of insurance money from his father's death.

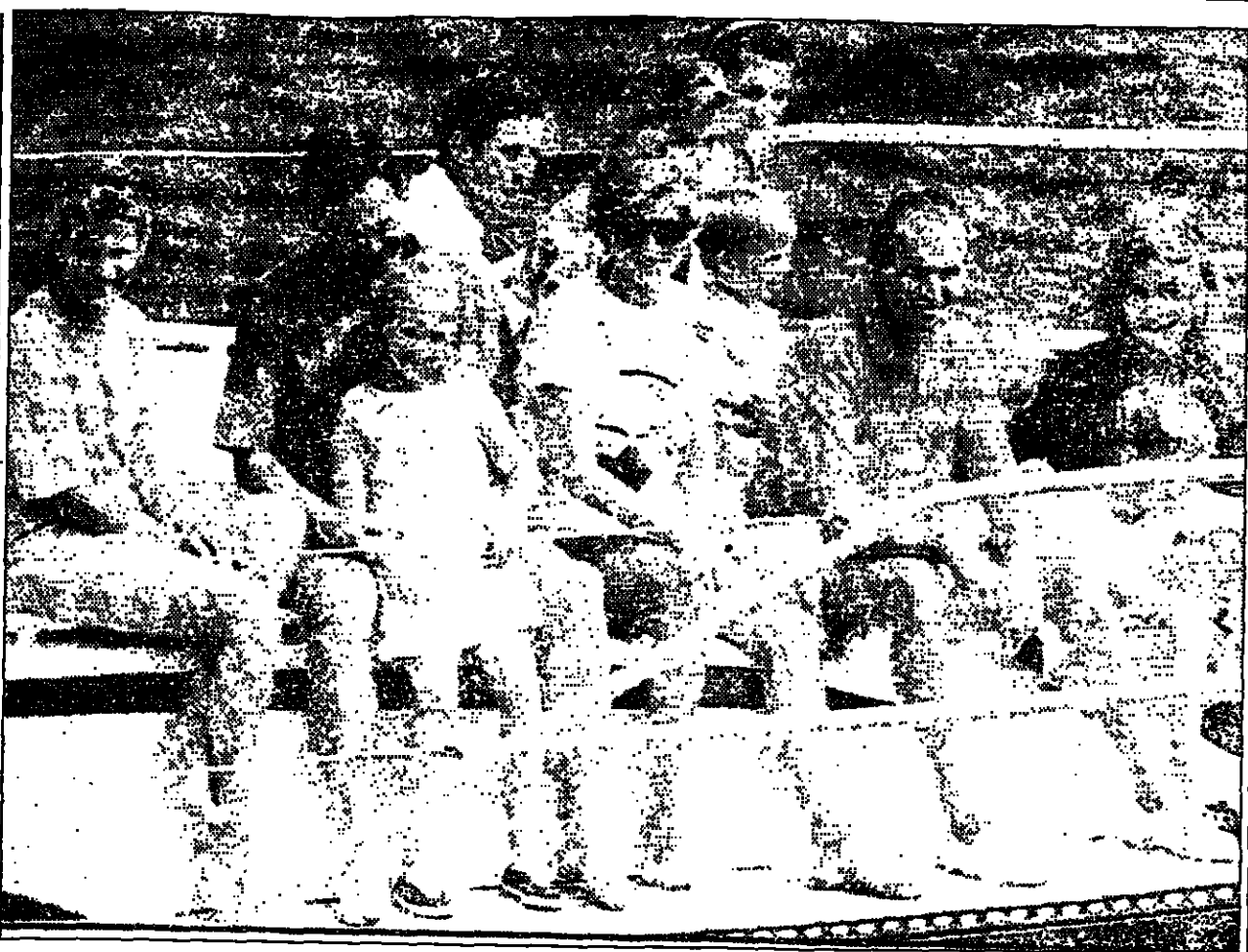
"When I left for Southern Illinois University in 1972 I had \$1,300 (£686 at today's exchange rates). In the evenings I cleaned floors of the business administration building." Four weeks ago, according to Mr Ijaz, Pakistani tax authorities went back through 26 years of his father's records and found nothing wrong. "I do not have a single penny of investments in Pakistan," he said.

Mr Ijaz said that unlike rich people like Benazir Bhutto, the dismissed prime minister, he could relate to ordinary people. "I am not an industrialist or a feudal, but a working-class man from a poor background. I have received 125,000 letters asking me to carry on the mission of my father. I go to public meetings and people cry."

"I set up the Zia ul-Haq Foundation and already there are 300,000 members. This has scared the hell out of all those politicians."

He thinks his father was greatly misunderstood. For example, he supported women's rights. "He made his daughters go to school. One is a doctor. One worked in the computer section of a big bank when he was president of Pakistan. He was not against women working."

And, said Mr Ijaz, he was a friend of democracy. "My father wanted to bring in democracy from grassroots levels."



King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, right, on their yacht off Majorca with the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children and former King Constantine of Greece and family. A visit by the Princess of Wales to Pakistan next month has been postponed after President Ishaq Khan's dissolution of the National Assembly

Singh 'ready for war' over borders

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDIA would rather wage a second war of independence than bow to terrorism on its frontiers. V. P. Singh, the prime minister, said yesterday after suspected Sikh militants exploded two bombs and killed at least 11 people.

In a televised independence day speech at the 16th-century Red Fort in old Delhi, Mr Singh announced that India had successfully test-fired a new missile, and said: "I am

ready to die with Indians on the border (rather) than see from New Delhi our borders being violated."

"The time has come to decide who is with India and who is not," he said, after a bomb killed five people near a temple in northwest Delhi. Police said the explosion also wounded 23 people, four of them seriously.

Shortly after Mr Singh's speech another bomb ex-

ploded in Punjab, killing seven people in a packed minibus and wounding 11 others. A local politician was also assassinated. Sikh militants are waging a violent campaign for independence in Punjab.

A telephone caller to newspapers in Srinagar, the capital of Indian-held Kashmir, claimed responsibility for the Delhi explosion for the Jammu Kashmir Liberation

Front, which is leading a separatist campaign.

Mr Singh said India had test-fired a medium-range, surface-to-air missile called Akash, which means "sky" in the ancient Sanskrit language. He did not say when it was fired. Defence experts said it was capable of intercepting and destroying high- and low-flying aircraft. United News of India said the missile had a range of about 15 miles.

India, which has the atomic bomb, has test-fired four other missiles. In May 1989 its scientists fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 1,550 miles.

Mr Singh did not directly threaten to use the missile against Pakistan. He made the announcement while talking about the country's pride in its armed forces. He then referred to the good relations India had with its neighbours, except for Pakistan.

More than 3,000 people have been killed this year in secessionist campaigns in three border states, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Assam. Mr Singh, whose minority government took power nine months ago, said he wanted to redress injustices that led to the uprisings. "But we will subdue the terrorists with force of arms," he said.

Tens of thousands of security men were on duty in three states in anticipation of trouble as India entered its 44th year of independence from Britain.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, the authorities allowed a dawn-to-dusk curfew that has been in force for much of the past eight months. Residents shunned the relaxation and called their own curfew.

Convicted mayor to seek seat on council

From Susan Elliott in Washington

MARION Barry, the Mayor of Washington, convicted last week of cocaine possession, has ended months of speculation by announcing that he will keep his pledge not to run for a fourth term this autumn. Instead, Mr Barry said he would seek a seat in the capital's city council.

A campaign by Mr Barry was the last chance of exciting city politics in coming months. Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights leader, ruled himself out earlier this year.

"I have a lot to offer this city," Mr Barry said through his campaign manager, ignoring the advice of many former supporters that he abandon politics and concentrate on recovering from his addiction. The mayor, arrested on a drugs charge last January in a "sting" operation by the US government, was convicted by a mainly black jury of one count of possessing cocaine and acquitted of another. The jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict on 12 other drugs and perjury charges.

Mr Barry, a masterful politician who lost much support during his trial, had kept Washington guessing about his career plans for weeks, even though he declared before the trial that he would not seek a fourth term. On Monday he left the Democratic party in order to "keep his options open" of running for a city office as an independent.

Mr Barry stands a good chance of winning a council seat with support from Washington's mainly poor black community. Washingtonians have not ruled out the possibility of Mr Barry running for mayor again in the future, once he has shown a sustained ability to stay away from illegal drugs.

Political commentators are now free to turn their attention to the less colourful Democratic candidates that remain: three city council members, a lawyer and a non-voting congressional delegate. The leading Republican challenge, in a city about 90 per cent Democrat, is a retired police chief, Maurice Turner, who may have some appeal for Washingtonians who see drugs and lawlessness as one of the city's main problems.

Among the Democrats, John Ray appears the most likely to win the race. He has the biggest coffers and strong support from developers. His main competitors are the only white candidate, Dave Clarke, chairman of the council, and Charlene Drew Jarvis, a councilwoman. Both have strong black support, but many whites consider Mr Clarke too liberal.

Some marginal spice to the race, which will centre on the city's budget crisis, comes in the form of Prissy Williams Godfrey, a former madame who supports the legalisation of prostitution. "Miss Prissy" is running as a candidate for her Love Party.

Violence erupts at Seoul rally

From Simon Warner in Seoul

THOUSANDS of stone-throwing radical students fought riot police at the entrance to a university in the South Korean capital after a unification rally yesterday, but were unable to break through a wall of tear gas and truncheons.

Five busloads of dissidents were allowed through the police cordon, but when the 10,000 people attending the rally on the Yonsei University campus tried to march out after them, 2,000 police moved in with shields and tear gas. There were reports of scores of injuries, burnt-out police vehicles and numerous arrests. Sporadic protests were staged in the city centre throughout the night.

The buses headed for the border town of Panmunjom, where the passengers, representing South Korea's biggest dissident group, intended to join a unification rally sponsored by North Korea on the northern side of the fortified border. Riot police turned back the buses, along with a group of right-wing activists trying to make the same trip. Police said that, because the North had rejected the South's terms for allowing dissidents to attend the event, their participation was banned. Reports said that the North went ahead with the rally, its participants cross into the South.

This was to be a week of travel between the two Koreas, but all of the high-sounding proposals seemed to have strings attached and nothing was ever agreed. There has yet to be a single crossing in either direction. A currency exchange booth and a customs post set up for the occasion stand deserted just inside the perimeter of Panmunjom.

Koreans keenly recognise that they live in the world's only remaining divided nation. Unification is the rallying cry of the dissidents and students, and it is the dream of some 10 million people whose families are separated.

Roh Tae Woo, the South Korean president, made unification the topic of his speech when he spoke earlier at a ceremony to mark the peninsula's liberation from Japanese rule 45 years ago. He said Seoul was ready to conclude a non-aggression pact and exchange permanent missions with rival North Korea.

Mr Roh said his government was also willing to discuss arms control, joint reunification of military force and replacement of the 1953 Korean ceasefire agreement with a peace treaty. "It is my conviction that the time has come for the responsible authorities from the South and North to hold talks on a whole range of issues," he said.

But distrust and hostility remain an impenetrable barrier and, outside the small bands of radicals, there are few people who expect any substantial progress until Kim Il Sung, aged 78, the North Korean leader and the man who started the Korean war, is dead and a new generation has taken power.

FROM B&Q.

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B&Q Liquid Gloss. High gloss finish for interior and exterior use. Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £7.99

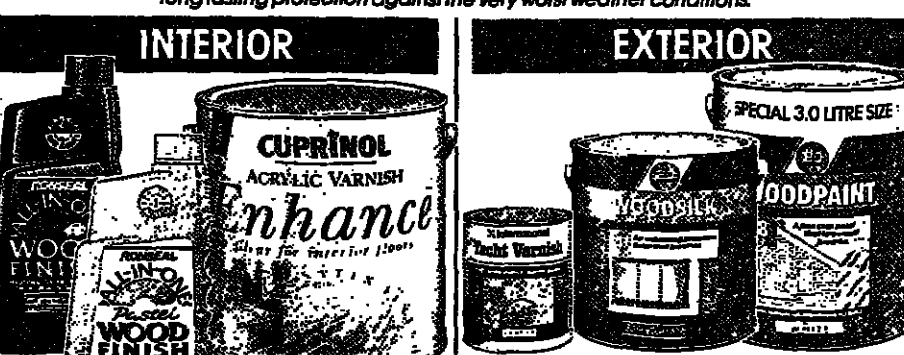
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NOBODY DOES DIY BETTER

King Husain's time to choose

Amir Taheri

King Husain of Jordan, who meets President Bush today to offer mediation on the Gulf crisis, believes his is a mission of peace. But the "little monarch" will be fighting for his crown, and his life. The crisis threatens to destroy a fine balancing act that has made him the longest-reigning monarch in recent Muslim history.

The Hashemite system he developed is based on a firm alliance with Britain and the United States, plus tactical alliances with regional powers that happen to be in the ascendancy at any given time, and a constant dialogue with Israel. This has secured for Husain Western military support whenever his throne was directly threatened, and an Israeli insurance policy that discouraged open attacks on his kingdom by the more radical Arab states.

Only once did he try to depart from this policy, when he threw his forces behind Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt in the Six Day War in 1967. The result was the loss of the West Bank and east Jerusalem to Israel. Some observers believe that by being drawn into an alliance with Iraq today, the king might be making his second, and possibly last, mistake.

Husain established himself during the 1980s as Iraq's staunchest ally in the war against Iran, by allowing Iraqi military installations in the country. Saddam Hussein repaid him handsomely in cash, and last year honoured his dynasty by inaugurating a lavish new mausoleum for his great uncle, King Faisal. It was then that King Husain first described the Iraqi dictator as a "true Arab patriot".

Jordan's alliance with Iraq has an economic basis too. Some 30 per cent of Jordan's exports are to Iraq. Tens of thousands of Jordanian farmers and small manufacturers earn their living from trade with Iraq.

King Husain has little reason to be sorry for the invasion of Kuwait: the Kuwaiti ruling dynasty supported the enemies of his family during the long struggle for the control of Arabia's holy shrines. Nor has the king any love for the Saudi ruling family. It was Ibn Saud who defeated Sharif Husain, his great-grandfather, and ended Hashemite rule in Hijaz.

Some observers believe King Husain wants to avenge his family's humiliation by helping destroy the Kuwaitis and the Saudis. Some even suggest that he dreams of seizing control of Arabia's holy shrines at Mecca and Medina during a global redrawing of the region's political map. But the king is too wise to harbour such illusions, and too much of an opportunist to want to accompany Saddam to the bitter end. More likely, he wants to extricate himself from his alliance with Baghdad but does not know how.

More than 60 per cent of

Jordan's population consists of Palestinians who still consider the PLO as their principal political voice, and the PLO leader Yasser Arafat has sided with Iraq for reasons of his own. Many Palestinians still dream of one final war against Israel, ending with the destruction of the Jewish state. To wage such a war, the support of at least one populous and militarily strong Arab nation is needed, and when Iraq is playing such a role, Jordan cannot be seen to be stabbing it in the back.

King Husain is also threatened by Muslim fundamentalists, who won more than 30 per cent of the votes in last year's elections. An alliance between the Muslim Brotherhood, the PLO and elements of the Baath party could be impossible to contain. A military coup by Baathist and pro-PLO officers in Jordan could result in a new government that would demand unification with Iraq.

An Iraqi expeditionary force could easily overwhelm King Husain's small army, which would also be undermined by a network of agents inside Jordan. An Iraqi military incursion into Jordan could trigger a Palestinian revolt against Husain, and would almost instantly provoke military action by Israel.

So the Jordanian king will emphasise two points in his talks with President Bush. He will argue that he must maintain a neutral stance so as to be able to act as a mediator with Saddam; but at the same time he will renew his commitment to alliance with the West and dialogue with Israel.

The role of mediator, however, cannot be taken seriously. Saddam's uncompromising personality precludes a diplomatic settlement. Give-and-take, the very essence of diplomacy, is unknown to him. The only way to persuade him to leave Kuwait is to convince him that his occupation of the emirate will lead to the destruction of his regime in Baghdad. Meanwhile he is stalling. Every passing day reinforces his strategic reserves thanks to imports through Jordan.

He also hopes that the West will begin to lose interest in the fate of a distant desert emirate where one set of oil-fat cats have been chased away by another. The Iraqis hope that the military build up against them will be reduced or disbanded within a few months. In keeping illusions of a compromise alive, King Husain might be playing a role in a script written by Saddam.

This is why the West should pressurise him to condemn Saddam's aggression openly, and to apply the UN sanctions. In exchange, Jordan should be given economic, political and military support against any Iraqi aggression. And as a seasoned politician, King Husain should know that if Saddam succeeds in annexing Kuwait the next target will be Jordan. King Husain must choose carefully.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

What is it about copiers and people who sell them? You go into an office equipment shop, see one of the size and definition you need and ask how much it costs. And they say: "Well... Fish-mongers don't say 'Well' when you ask for the price of haddock, nor hardware shops if you go to buy a hammer."

So you repeat: "How much?" "It depends," they say. "Will you want to purchase or lease? Take advantage of our 24-hour call-out service or maintenance contract, get an extra roller, some bottles of toner to see you through?"

"No," I say. "I just want to buy this machine and if it goes wrong, which being new it will presumably not for a while, I would appreciate the name of someone who could come and put it right."

They don't like that. Their favourite option is having you sign a seven-year hire purchase agreement and every quarter you look at the counter and send them 3p for each copy you have made. This, they explain, is the norm in the industry. I am a buyer, not a renter. When I bought my car, Rover did not ask me to send them money for each mile I clocked; why should I pay the office equipment company each time my machine uses my toner to copy something onto my paper?

Perhaps I was just unlucky, but to date every copier salesman I have encountered has filled me with apprehension: if any of my children had wanted to go into the photocopy sales business I should have tried hard to dissuade them.

Eight years ago I visited a warehouse in Southwark where they sold secondhand machines. Saw one I quite liked, was told it was good for another million copies, agreed a price and shook hands on it. "And then there is the VAT," said the man writing out a bill and adding £50 for delivery.

"You are an unmitigated swine," I said. "We made a deal. How can you behave like this?" The man replied that I hadn't seen nothing yet and added four other items to the agreed sum.

I have an actor friend who went to work in New York and was told to be extremely careful

Anthony Parsons untangles the strands with which Saddam is weaving a web to catch the West

Keep the aggressor clearly in mind

Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and the international reaction it provoked have given the Middle Eastern kaleidoscope a violent twist from which it will settle into a different, and at the moment unpredictable pattern. The gyrations are now affecting the Iran-Iraq problem, with Saddam's announcement that Iraqi troops will withdraw from Iranian territory, and that Iraq will accept the 1975 agreement on the division of the Shatt al Arab waterway, which connects the port of Basra with the Gulf.

Saddam's motives are obvious enough. Iran is a formidable neighbour, which, had it not been for Western assistance, would probably have crushed Iraq in the years following the failure of Saddam's intended blitzkrieg of September 1980. If he can neutralise the threat on his eastern border, his hands will be free to cope with the crisis caused by his aggression against Kuwait. The rhetoric of his statement of August 15 shows he wants to co-opt wider international support against the outside powers which have reacted to his threat to Saudi Arabia. In this

way Iraq would appear as the potential victim of "Western imperialism" rather than the original criminal. He must hope that Iran, her demands satisfied, will at best denounce sanctions against Iraq, and at worst turn a blind eye to traffic across a long and unpoliceable border.

It is no surprise that Iran has welcomed Iraq's initiatives. When Iraqi forces crossed the frontier ten years ago, the Iranian war aims included total Iraqi withdrawal, the reinstatement of the 1975 agreement on the Shatt al Arab waterway (which Saddam had denounced before invading), compensation for war damage and "the identification and punishment of the aggressor".

After seven years of war, Iran was prepared to modify the last three demands and to accept the UN Security Council's resolution 598, establishing an impartial body to enquire into responsibility for the conflict, and a study of the question of compensation. On the face of it, Saddam has conceded everything of importance to Iran - withdrawal, release of prisoners, the 1975 agreement, and action on responsibility and compensation.

After probably more than a million casualties in eight years of war, as well as extensive economic damage, missile bombardment of open cities, and poison-gas attacks, the Iranians are unlikely to rush into Saddam's embrace. He has broken a treaty once and could do so again. He is the man denounced by the Ayatollah Khomeini as an aggressor who must be destroyed.

Also, Iranians are tough negotiators, profoundly distrustful of their opponents in any circumstances. On the other hand, the Iranian leadership must be conscious that its attempts to subvert the regime in Iraq provoked the invasion of 1980, and that if it ceases such activity, Saddam is less likely to tear up another treaty. The Iranians must also believe he has learnt that there is a great difference between taking on Iran and invading Kuwait. So we may soon witness a scene - perhaps possible only in the Middle East - in which the United Nations takes enforcement action against an aggressor on the one hand while helping to negotiate a peace treaty involving the same aggressor on the other.

The rest of the world must keep the various strands of the crisis separate and not allow Saddam's initiatives - both propagandist and sincere - to blur the issue so that it looks to the people of the region like a kind of Manichean struggle between the forces of light ("good" Arabs and other Muslims) against the forces of darkness (American and European "imperialism" with its "stooges", some thinly disguised as the United Nations.)

If Iran and Iraq can achieve genuine peace after one of the longest and bloodiest wars of the second half of the 20th century, this will be an unexpected bonus for the world. But it is distinct from the original strand of the crisis: the Iraqi aggression against and annexation of Kuwait, which was the first time since 1945 that the flag of an independent member state of the United Nations has been forcibly hauled down.

The reaction to this is the second strand: unprecedented international unanimity to take enforcement action through mandatory UN sanctions under Article 41 of the charter against the aggressor. This has nothing to do

with Iran-Iraq, and Iran will have to maintain sanctions under international law, regardless of its relations with its former enemy. Any further action to enforce the sanctions, such as a blockade, must be, and be seen to be, a genuine UN operation under the military articles of the charter. Only in this way will the international consensus be maintained. The third separate strand is the multinational (mainly American, Arab and British) response to the Saudi request for military assistance to deter an Iraqi threat of invasion. This is perfectly legitimate in international law and has nothing to do with Arab-Israel, Iran-Iraq, or UN sanctions, and must remain distinct.

It is in Saddam's interest to confuse all these issues in the hope of breaking the international consensus, mobilising the people of the Middle East against their governments and distracting attention from his original crime of aggression. He must not be allowed to do so.

Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to the United Nations 1979-82, and has been a diplomat in six Arab capitals.

Stop toadying to the specious claims of animal libbers

Bernard Levin says we should respect nature, but have gone too far in protecting it against our interests

I must make one thing absolutely clear at the outset: I have never knowingly harmed a Natterjack toad. I mean it never. Not only have I never stamped on or kicked one, I have never shouted angrily at one, blown whistles that might have startled it, set Natterjack toad traps for it, jeered at its appearance, behaviour or habits (who am I to talk?), or even spoken disparagingly of it. So when I learned that experts had thought it had died out, but that it had just managed to survive, and that plans were afoot to persuade it to breed at a rate that would ensure its future, by decanting several brace of them at a secret and well-guarded rendezvous, I wished them well.

There is, no doubt, a flourishing society called The Friends of the Natterjack toad. I shall not apply to join, but I shall never give cause for the members to write me reproachful letters. But I maintain that human beings are more important, and if it were a choice of the human race or the Natterjack toad for extinction, I would vote for the survival of the human race.

I make that point partly because it constitutes my theme today, and partly because there are people who reject it entirely. The Friends of the Natterjack toad, we can be sure, are respectable, peace-loving folk, who seek only to persuade others by reason to love their little green friends. Unfortunately, all such organisations are sooner or later challenged by extremists in their ranks, who denounce the members of the parent body as ineffectual fainthearts, set up on their own under some such title as Natterjack Toads Lib, and start to smash other people's windows. (Natterjack Toads Lib do not actually care about Natterjack toads; what they are after is the pleasure of the window-smashing, though they would smash the windows of anyone who said so.)

I have recently counted the number of species of sentient creatures which have died over the years, sometimes for millions of years, but ultimately died out, since the first non-vegetable life appeared on earth: I made it 11,784,231. (While I was about it, I also counted the non-sentient species which have similarly waxed, waned and vanished; it came to 67,388,904. Chesterton, a long way ahead of his time, contributed notably to the debate which has led to such crackpot outfits as Natterjack Toads Lib. He invented a supervolcanic movement which thought it was just as cruel to eat vegetables - they called it "Drinking the green blood of the silent animals" - and insisted that we should all live on salt. "Then came the pamphlet from Oregon, where the thing was tried, called *Why Should Salt Suffer?*")

Some of the species that are now no more than folk memories, sketches, prehistoric cave paintings or fossils have some claim on our regrets, particularly if it was man who hunted them to extinction. The North American au- rochs, for instance, and of course the dodo, which at least has the satisfaction of being firmly fixed in the language. But the almost unimaginably large number of surviving species (I even counted those, too - there are 27,119,854) offers great reassurance to those who believe that everything from the elephant to the bacillus is about to disappear for ever, leaving man triumphant but lonely over his vanished kingdom.

This is a plea for the indiscriminate slaughter of anything on four or more legs. Or none, of course, though I must say that if I were told that present-day whale-hunting without restrictions would produce a masterpiece of the equal of *Moby Dick*, I would think the bargain a very good one. (The whales are safe; most of today's novelists could not summon up enough imagination to write about an animal bigger than a dachshund.) But I have learned to be suspicious of all this modish talk about "animal rights", which in my experience is generally unsubstantiated in principle, grossly and untruthfully exaggerated in argument, frequently harmful or criminal in practice, and usually based much less on concern for animals than on hatred for human beings.

I have repeatedly found that when I tell people it is a serious crime in this country to disturb a bat - just to disturb, not to kill, torture, cook or even strike it - I am always thought to be joking, or using my notorious hyperbole to make a point. But it is the literal truth: you can be fined in four figures if, having found a nest of bats in your loft, you pick it up very gently, take it to the nearest hollow oak, and put it, no less gently, into a commodious hole. I

take no part in the argument over the likelihood of bats spreading diseases. I do not believe that they deliberately get themselves tangled in the hair of ladies of a nervous disposition, and I make every allowance for the fact that I instinctively find them repulsive; but I insist that a country which enacts laws involving severe punishment for a householder who finds his home infested with bats and - without harming them, in any way - removes them, has gone raving mad.

I think that we have a duty to care for the animals we keep as pets, and another, more distant



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Crisis bonus for Bush House

Saddam Hussein's belligerence has put an extra spring in the step of BBC World Service journalists. While world leaders have sought to combat Iraq's annexation of Kuwait, the morale of Bush House journalists has risen following the invasion. In spite of the jamming of their broadcasts by Iraq, the 30 staff in the Arabic section feel the developments in the Gulf have bolstered the prestige of the World Service, diminished by detente in Eastern Europe and the unjamming of its broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

The World Service is the only lifeline to the outside world for British, Thai, Indonesian and Indian families stranded in the Gulf. Apart from English, broadcasts are being transmitted in Hindi, Urdu, Pashto and Persian. The effectiveness of the broadcasts has underlined the importance of the service at a time when the Treasury is seeking spending cuts. Managing director John Tusa, tipped by Bush House insiders as the BBC's next director-general, will use the Gulf crisis as a powerful negotiating weapon in talks on the next three-year budget. Tusa says: "I believe the Gulf crisis proves yet again that especially in times of real international danger people turn to us. But, remember, it's only because we are there in the first place that we are available in a crisis. You have to be there ready in the quiet times as well."

For only the second time since the war, the World Service has made short-wave frequencies available for broadcasts with messages home for British servicemen in the Gulf. Further spending cuts have been expected since the announcement that the Japanese and Malay foreign language services would cease next April, and after the widening of democracy in Eastern Europe. While the world deplores the actions of Saddam Hussein, the BBC World Service may have cause to be thankful.

Invitation lies

Gilded invitations to a lavish dinner party at a West End hotel to launch Philip Kerr's *Penguin Book of Lies* are on their way to politicians and journalists ahead of its publication in October. Those invited should be warned. The party will not be at a hotel. "It's a complete lie," says Kerr unashamedly. A discreet and less expensive launch is being held at Leighton House in Kensington.

Lone Granger

With only weeks to go before Stewart Granger is supposed to return to the West End stage in a revival of Somerset Maugham's *The Circle*, no theatre has yet been found for the production. Granger, aged 77, last appeared on the London stage in 1949 in a Tolstoy play, which he admits was a disaster. *The Circle* ends its provincial run on September 23. After that nobody is sure which London theatre, if any, will be backing Granger's name on the star dressing room.



DIARY

The Haymarket was approached originally, but rejected the production because of the continued success of Ben Elton's *Gaspings*. An associate of Duncan Weldon, producer of *The Circle*, said: "We are still talking about a decision yet. Rumours are beginning to circulate that the play may not reach the West End."

Rex Harrison was to have topped the bill after appearing opposite Granger on Broadway. But his death in New York robbed the British production of its biggest box office name.

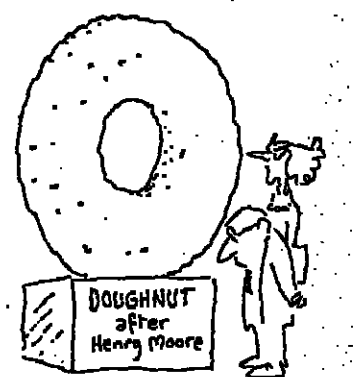
Ned Sherrin, director of the hit show *Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell*, who saw the Broadway version of *The Circle*, said: "There has already been one revival in London. It's a rather slow and stately play. I don't think it will be a major hit. It will be a limited success."

Art of confection

Visitors to the Usher Gallery in Lincoln next month could be forgiven for thinking they had strolled by mistake

into an exotic tuck-shop. On display will be an exhibition of 34 iced cakes. They are not designed to be eaten with a pot of Earl Grey. "They are art forms," says Sherrin Macfarlane, the exhibition organiser. "We have invited artists, jewellers-makers, and potters to explore a new medium." The *Spitting Image* team was asked for a contribution, and produced a cake featuring Mrs Thatcher and Ronald Reagan.

After a month in Lincoln, the exhibition will move to Berlin. "I don't suppose we'll be allowed to



eat the cakes. We'll probably have to send them back to the contributors," says the gallery.

Party unfaithful

With the crisis in the Gulf lengthening the odds against a further challenge to the Tory leadership this autumn, new research suggests that up to 15 normally loyal MPs voted against Mrs Thatcher in last year's leadership contest. Philip Norton, professor of

government at Hull university, in the journal *Parliamentary Affairs*, has overturned the general Tory assumption that the 33 MPs who voted for Sir Anthony Meyer and the 24 who abstained came from the wet wing of the party.

Tory whips have not been able to identify which MPs proposed and seconded Meyer's challenge, let alone those who voted for him in the secret ballot. Norton breaks down Tory MPs into party faithful, Thatcherites, populists, wets and dampers. "The core of Meyer's support was expected, and safely assumed to have come from the wets and the dampers," he says. Norton calculates that the number of Meyer voters and abstainers, drawn from those known to be opposed to Mrs Thatcher was no more than 40. That still leaves almost 20 votes unaccounted for. Norton says that rebels must also have come from the populists and, most surprisingly, the party faithful. "Meyer's support of necessity included some members - at least five, possibly 15 - of the party faithful," he says.

● The Tory backbench aviation committee has completed preparations for its next overseas fact-finding trip - to Saudi Arabia. Visas have arrived for the six members of the committee, which include former RAF pilot Keith Mans. The MPs are determined to press ahead next month with their mission to inspect Saudi military forces. Would it not be less expensive for the taxpayer and safer for the MPs if they monitored the revving tanks and hovering helicopters on television news in this country?

THE PYTHON'S EMBRACE

Iran, however, has several reasons to inspect the gift horse thoroughly. The first is that Saddam's peace offer would not provide the United Nations guarantees which Iran, knowing Saddam to be a liar, has sought since the 1988 ceasefire. Tehran remembers with what declarations of brotherly love Saddam signed the Algiers agreement, and the oath he swore on the Koran never to return to the treaty when the tore it up in 1980. That is why Iran has

The West's response should be to talk to Iran, possibly through West Germany and Japan, which have good relations with Tehran and to dissuade Tehran from concluding a peace treaty with Iraq, but to emphasise its obligation under the Charter to abide by sanctions, and its economic interest in doing so. Britain should give higher priority to exploring Iran's offer to resume relations. Above all, the rest of the world should impress on Iran - directly, and through channels such as Iran's old friend, Syria - the strength of international determination to drive Saddam out of Kuwait. The world should not be deflected by a manoeuvre which, however skillful, advertises Iraq's vulnerability to a sustained siege.

Though this prospect repels many non-scientists, and especially religious people, it must nevertheless be faced. Just as the satanic potential of nuclear weapons has been held in abeyance, serving even to prevent mankind from destroying itself in war, so too the coming of artificial intelligence ought not to shake the foundations of belief. Whatever computers may accomplish, the human spirit will always be the ghost in these ingenious machines.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LETTS, Chairman,
National Heritage,
10 North Street, SW4.
August 2

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

J. FISHER,
c/o Adrian Taylor,
Highfields Cottage, The Street,
Thorpe Abbots, Diss, Norfolk.
August 11.

know that I was swimming yesterday in my pool — and how refreshing it was to have a dip! — when I noticed a man trying to keep pace with me. He was waving

know that I was swimming yesterday in my pool — refreshing it was to have when I noticed a man keep pace with me. He w

know that I was swimming yesterday in my pool — refreshing it was to have when I noticed a man keep pace with me. He w

refreshing it was to have
when I noticed a man
keep pace with me. He w

—



COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA
August 15: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Princess Royal.
Captain Giles Bassett was received by The Queen at the Castle of Mey, when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.
Mr James Cameron and Mr Donald McCarthy were also received by The Queen at the Castle of Mey, when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).
CLARENCE HOUSE
August 15: Queen Elizabeth

The Queen Mother this morning opened the new Offices of the Harbour Trust at Scrabster, Caithness.
Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.
KENSINGTON PALACE
August 15: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, London Suzuki Group, this evening attended a concert given by Suzuki International Young Musicians in aid of Save the Children Fund at Younger Hall, North Street, St Andrews, Fife.
Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.P. Baron and Miss R.C. Tomkins.
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mrs K. Baron and the late Mr J. Baron, of Pidd, Lancashire, and Rebecca, youngest daughter of Mr A.R.W. Tomkins and the late Mrs P.J. Tomkins, of Frimston-on-Sea, Essex.
Mr M.L. Bealy and Miss R.M. Swire.
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Dr and Mrs N.L. Bealy, of Godshill, Isle of Wight, and Rebecca, daughter of Sir John and Lady Swire, of Seaford, Kent.
Mr J.W. Billingham and Miss H.G. Birch.
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Wesley, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Billingham, of Dingle Dale, and Heather Glensy, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Birch, of Bransford, Lincolnshire. The wedding will take place on Saturday, March 30, 1991, in Bransford Parish.
Mr C.P. Hopkinson and Miss V.N. Carter.
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles (Hoppy) Hopkinson, of Blackheath, London, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Carter, of Vauxhall Manor, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.
Mr C.J. Lambton and Miss J. Morris.
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Major Charles and Lady Elizabeth Lambton, of Causton, Wiltshire, and Julie, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.K.W. Morris, of Aberdeenshire.

Mr P.J. Macintosh and Miss E.J. Freeman.
The engagement is announced between Patrick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H.G. Macintosh, of Camberley, Surrey, and Eliza, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L.F. Freeman, of Bruton, Somerset.
Mr C.E.P. Plowden and Miss R.M. Hindhaugh.
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Plowden, of Powden Hall, Shropshire, and Ruth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Hindhaugh, of Low Coniscliffe, County Durham.
Mr A.E.M. Waugh and Miss E.B. Chancellor.
The engagement is announced between Alexander, eldest son of Mr Auberon and Lady Teresa Waugh, of Combe Florey House, Taunton, Somerset, and Eliza, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Chancellor, of 1 Souldern Road, London, W14.
Mr T.P.M. Williams and Mrs C.S. Ingram.
The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Williams, of London, SW11, and Catherine Sonia Ingram, of Long Melford, Suffolk.
Dr J.M. Woolrych and Dr M.L. Harrison.
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Dr and Mrs M.E. Woolrych, of Godalming, Surrey, and Mira, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Harrison, of Watford, Hertfordshire.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will disembark from HM Britannia at Aberdeen at 10.15, will open the Bon Accord Centre in Aberdeen at 10.25, and will arrive at Balmoral Castle at 12.40.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Ralph Thoresby, antiquary, Leeds, 1658; Catherine Cockburn, dramatist, London, 1679; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Richmond, Surrey, 1821; Jules Laforgue, poet, Montevideo, 1860; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, Goulburn, New South Wales, 1865; Georgina Heyer, historical novelist, London, 1902.
DEATHS: Jacques Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1705; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Jean Martin Charcot, physician, Morvan, France, 1893; Robert Bunsen, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; Sir Joseph Lockyer, astronomer, Salcombe Regis, Devon, 1920; Babe Ruth, baseball player, New York, 1948; Louis Jourvet, actor, Paris, 1951; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, 1959; Selman Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin, Nobel laureate, 1952; Hyman Massachusett, 1973; Elvis Presley, Memphis, Tennessee, 1977; John George Diefenbaker, prime minister of Canada 1957-63, 1979.
The "Peterloo" massacre, Manchester, 1819. The Tate Gallery, London, was opened, 1897.

Luncheon

HM Government
Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of the High Commissioner for Ghana.

Birthdays today

Mr Menachem Begin, former Prime Minister of Israel, 77; Mr M.C. Bird, chairman, Verity Holdings, 69; the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, Bishop of Southwark, 64; Sir Philip Dowson, architect, 66; Sir David Gilmore, diplomat, 56; Miss Katharine Hammett, fashion designer, 43; Mr Ted Hughes, poet laureate, 60; Sir Donald Maude, civil servant and dip-

Latest wills

Mr Gilbert Beckett Arthur Williams, of Weybridge, Surrey, chartered architect, for 19 years chairman of the technical panel of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and responsible for the conservation of many important buildings, left estate valued at £223,740 net. He left £50 to the First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston, USA, and £10 each to the Architects Benevolent Society, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the RNLI.
Mr John Basil Goodacre, of North Chalfont, East Sussex, who died on May 18, left estate valued at £437,749 net. He left his estate to his wife Mrs Florence Elizabeth Goodacre, who died on June 30, leaving estate valued at £680,512 net. She left personal legacies totalling £32,000, £10,000 to Batter-

sea Dogs Home, and the residue to the New District General Hospital, Haywards Heath.
Mr John Jack Fenton, of London N6, left estate valued at £1,404,252 net.
Other estates include (net before tax):
Mrs Emily Kathleen Bateman, of Putney, London SW15, £569,756.
Mrs Margery Eleanor Coles, of Parkgate, Cheshire, £425,923.
Elizabeth Mary Cole, of Ross on Wye, Hereford and Worcester, £416,318.
Mr Harry Moir Drummond, of Colchester, Essex, £795,334.
Mr Arnold Rathbone Edge, of Madeley, Cheshire, £460,200.
Mrs Joan Gist, of Barnt Green, Hereford and Worcester, £445,834.

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY MACKAILL

Dorothy Mackaill, British-born leading lady of American silent films, died on August 12 in Hawaii at the age of 87. She was born in 1903.

AFTER a precocious childhood in which she had already shown signs of a talent for acting Dorothy Mackaill ran away from home in Hull, where her father was a small tradesman, and arrived in London at the age of 14 bent on becoming an actress. Her leaving home finally persuaded her father that joining him in his small business was clearly not the right course in life for her and he agreed to pay for the singing and dancing lessons which helped her on her way to fame. Her striking appearance gained her a part in *Joy Bells* at the Hippodrome where she was the youngest girl in the show. She also had her first film role in *The Face at the Window*. Later she went to Paris where she spent a season, appearing in a musical revue with Maurice Chevalier.

From Paris she went to New York where she was introduced to the presence of Florenz Ziegfeld who was apparently so overwhelmed by the sheer cheek of her introduction to him, that he accepted her as a chorine in his Ziegfeld Follies. She became one of his most famous Ziegfeld girls of the Twenties. The great showman had no compunction about introducing her to audiences as another of his "typical American girls" in spite of the fact that her Hull upbringing had left her with a pronounced Yorkshire accent which she made no attempt to eradicate.

After a few years with Ziegfeld, she was cast in the John Barrymore film *Lotus Eater* and thereafter prospered variously as an ingenue (with long hair) or a flapper (with bobbed hair) in such films as *Streets of New York*, *The Barker*, *The Man Who Came Back*, *Lady Be Good* and many others. She also played



breezy lead roles in comedies and light romances and worked opposite George O'Brien twice and Richard Barthelmess three times. But she will probably be best remembered for her features with Jack Mulhall, most of which were light comedies. Miss Mackaill made a few

early sound pictures, *Love Affair* in 1932 with Humphrey Bogart and *The Chief* in 1933 with Ed Wynn, but had fallen in love with Hawaii on a visit to a film in 1929 and moved there permanently in 1934 after marrying her third husband, an orchid grower. Her last picture was *Bulldog*

Drummond at Bay in 1937 when she made a brief appearance. In the mid-1970s - to honour her devotion to Hawaii - Honolulu declared "Dorothy's Day" and celebrated and praised her at her hotel, an occasion she loved every minute of.

ELVIRA RONÉ

Elvira Roné, a Russian dancer and teacher of ballet, has died in Paris at the age of 88.

ELVIRA Roné's claim to fame was as one of the last personal links with the old Russian Imperial School of Ballet, but she was still only a young pupil there when the first world war broke out and her dancing career was almost entirely outside Russia. Although born in St Petersburg, she was taken very young to Latvia and appeared as a child actress in the theatre at Riga. However, she went back to St Petersburg to enter the famous ballet school in Theatre Street where such stars as Pavlova and Nijinsky had been educated. Olga Preobrazhenskaya, who had become the prima ballerina of the Imperial Ballet, began teaching during Roné's time at the school and the young pupil treasured lifelong memories of her lessons.

On graduating, Roné joined the ballet company in the former Maryinsky Theatre, but did not stay long because

she had the chance to join the Riga opera house as a principal dancer at the age of 20. She next joined Pavlova's company and toured the world with it for several years, before joining the Schaubühne, Berlin, as first soloist at the end of the 1920s. Before long, she decided to settle in Paris where her mother, Countess Granowska (Polish by origin) was living. There she was reunited with Preobrazhenskaya, who began teaching her pupils included stars of the Paris Opera such as Madeleine Lafon and Nina Vyroubova, and also the international star Timara Tomanova. Many choreographers sought her advice. Pierre Lacotte and John Neumeier, for instance, both benefited from her knowledge.

FELIX KLEE

Felix Klee, Swiss art historian and son of the painter Paul Klee, died in Bern on August 13 at the age of 82.

THE life of Felix Klee was very much tied up with the cultural ethos of Germany during his formative years. Though he demonstrated gifts as a painter he was persuaded by his father to become a stage producer, and in the early years of the second world war worked at the city theatre in Würzburg, Bavaria. At first his work was interfered with remarkably little by the Nazis. The local Gauleiter had no great influence and the cultural life of the city developed a robust resistance to Nazism.

All this changed with dramatic suddenness on September 1, 1944. Goebbels closed all the theatres and Klee was drafted into the Wehrmacht. He was sent off to the eastern front, by that time receding on Poland and Czechoslovakia as the pursuing Russian armies rolled forward. He was captured in May 1945 and narrowly escaped death at the

hands of Czech partisans by pretending that he was an Alsatian who had been pressed into service with the Wehrmacht. He was held in a Russian prisoner-of-war camp, surviving an outbreak of typhus. Eventually he was released in the Ukraine in 1946.

His father's death in 1940 had left his mother with the problem of how to handle several thousand works by Paul Klee which had been appropriated in Switzerland. Felix Klee's mother died shortly after her son's release from captivity and it fell to him to sort out a tangled situation in which some of the appropriated paintings had been sold, others put in trust to a Klee foundation and some deposited in the Bern museum. After a long legal tug-of-war Klee managed to gain ownership of more than 1,400 items by his father and in 1957 he oversaw publication of the diaries of Paul Klee. He became head of the Paul Klee foundation in 1963.

Making space for barn owls

By JOHN YOUNG

ANYONE renovating or converting barns and other farm buildings should take care to provide accommodation for barn owls, the Hawk and Owl Trust has urged.

Britain's barn owl population has declined by 70 per cent in the last 50 years and the bird is now considered a threatened species, the trust points out. The decline has been caused by changes in farming methods and by severe winters between 1940 and 1985, which reduced the availability of food. Demolition, restoration and conversion of farm buildings have also contributed to their disappearance.

The birds are given special legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and it is an offence, with a fine of up to £2,000, intentionally to disturb them during nesting or breeding. It is therefore important that builders and local planning authorities find out if they are on a site before any work is contemplated, and that appropriate conditions are attached to any planning consent.

Alternative nesting and roosting sites may be provided in a renovated building through an opening or "owl window" high up in the end wall, giving access to an insulated loft. Alternatively a nesting box can be put in a nearby building or large tree. Colin Shawyer, the trust's director of conservation and research, pointed out that, before poisons were available for rats and mice, farmers encouraged owls to roost and nest as useful predators.

When worldliness obscures a priest's sense of identity

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE identity of the Roman Catholic priesthood is "in deep crisis", according to the results of a worldwide survey which will be discussed at the synod of bishops in Rome this October.

A Vatican working document describes a crisis over the priest's function and place in society, which can lead to misunderstanding, isolation and demoralisation, and cause him to abandon his vocation.

In some countries a shortage of priests is beginning to be felt, leading to an increase in the proportion of older priests who can become overburdened and subject to stress, and in places where congregations have declined and where pastoral work seems ineffective priests can think their ministry is no longer needed, the report says.

Candidates are few in many western churches, because of secularisation, criticism and the degrading of family life, among other causes, the document says.

Nicholas Coote, assistant general secretary to the Catho-

lic bishops' conference of England and Wales, said: "Some priests are having to search their hearts and think about the relationship between pursuing social justice and solidarity with the poor, and their more traditional ministry of supplying the sacraments and being leaders in parishes."

He said a substantial minority was questioning the traditional lifestyle of the priest. "They are following up some of the papal documents which say that the search for liberation and social justice is a constitutive part of preaching the Gospel." An increase in later vocations had added a stabilising and sane influence to the priesthood in Britain.

Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool and Bishop John Brewer of Lancaster will represent the bishops of England and Wales at the synod, where the document will be a basis for a discussion on vocation and formation.

The document, titled *The Formation of Priests in Circumstances of the Present Day*, describes the problems

facing priests in a society where individualism and subjectivism lie at the root of countless social evils, where frustrations and unfulfilled hopes fuel violence and the rejection of any kind of authority. Many young people, even candidates for the priesthood, have never experienced a united family and the primary concern of most couples is material well-being, the document says.

"In some countries, the 'sacred' is in crisis. God and religion have largely disappeared from the existential horizon." Pornography is widespread and "chastity, virginity and celibacy are often incomprehensible and ridiculed."

Because of a priest's celibacy, he is sometimes looked upon in a strange way. Yet it is extremely necessary that the pastors of the church excel in the witness of holiness. Some priests cannot accept chastity in celibacy and leave. "The problem becomes more serious as priests seek to live in a world characterised by criticism."

NORMAN MALCOLM

Professor Norman Malcolm, the American philosopher who taught laterally at King's College London, died on August 5 at the age of 78. He was born on June 11, 1911.

FOR the last 13 years, King's College London was graced with the presence of Norman Malcolm, one of Ludwig Wittgenstein's most distinguished pupils and a leading philosopher of the post-war era from the United States. Though past retirement age, Malcolm was appointed to an emeritus chair in London, where he gave weekly graduate seminars renowned for their lucidity, depth and intellectual honesty. His impact at King's was twofold. He set a shining example as a teacher; and his high standards of philosophical clarity, his contempt for pretentiousness and his striving for truth and understanding affected all who worked with him.

His presence in London was a delight to his English friends and to his old American colleagues on visits, who were received in Hampstead with an iron handshake, a friendly growl of welcome and a warm smile that lit up his face. Malcolm never lost his slow, Nebraska drawl, which charmed one in the many lighter moments of gaiety in his company, and seemed so well suited to the slow but remorseless way in which he gnawed at philosophical confusions, stripping off layer after layer of illusion and humbug.

After an early childhood in Kansas, Malcolm took his first degree at the University of Nebraska, where his interest in philosophy was awakened by O.K. Bouwsma. He went to Harvard to do post-graduate work in 1933. In 1938 he was awarded a travelling fellowship and came to Cambridge. There he met Wittgenstein, who became the primary influence on his mature thought. He attended Wittgenstein's classes for the next year and a half and was befriended by the great man, maintaining a correspondence with him throughout the second world war.

Malcolm served in the US Navy from 1942 to 1945 as executive officer of a destroyer escort on North Atlantic convoy duty. It was typical of him that his reminiscences were not of times of danger and hardship but of moments of

high comedy in naval life.

He returned to Cambridge in 1946-7, again attending Wittgenstein's classes. From 1947 until 1978 he taught at Cornell University, where, together with Max Black, he transformed the philosophy department into one of the finest in America. It was primarily through Malcolm's teaching and writings that Wittgenstein's philosophical ideas were communicated to the next generation of American philosophers. In 1975 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Earlier this year he was made a fellow of King's College London.

Of Malcolm's many books, *Ludwig Wittgenstein - A Memoir* (1958) recounts his impressions of his friend and teacher with sensitivity and warmth, yet without concealing Wittgenstein's irascibility and intolerance. *Dreaming* (1959) stimulated a heated debate in philosophical journals for many years. Two volumes of papers, *Knowledge and Certainty* (1963) and *Thought and Knowledge* (1977), exhibit Malcolm's mastery of the philosophical essay and the gradual movement of his interests from epistemology to philosophy of mind. *Memory and Mind* (1977) examined classical empiricist and modern causal theories of memory. With scrupulous fairness, Malcolm dissected misconceptions about memory, traced the tangled network of fallacious argument and questioned the foundations of contemporary neuro-physiologically-inspired reflections on memory.

During his last years in London, at an age when most philosophers exchange their pen for a deck chair, Malcolm soldiered on with undiminished vigour. *Consciousness and Causality* (1984) is a good example of elucidation of problems in philosophical psychology. Although he had written numerous articles on Wittgenstein's philosophy, it was only with *Nothing is Hidden* (1986) that Malcolm ventured on a full-scale study.

It received well-merited praise. The hallmark of Malcolm's mature writings was a luminous simplicity of expression, honesty and integrity of thought. He carried on working until shortly before his death and a posthumous volume should appear soon.



Tolstoy faces bankruptcy over Aldington libel

By ROBIN YOUNG

COUNT Nikolai Tolstoy takes his family on holiday today expecting to go into bankruptcy as soon as he returns. Count Tolstoy, the historian against whom Lord Aldington, the former Conservative Party deputy chairman, won record damages of £1.5 million, has offered to pay about £20,000 in final settlement, without any great expectation that the amount will be accepted.

Count Tolstoy said yesterday that his family owed their holiday, staying in a cottage on a friend's estate in Portugal, to the fact that his wife had taken in foreign students over the summer.

In an estimate of his assets submitted to Lord Aldington's solicitors, Allen & Overy, Count Tolstoy estimates that they are worth just £16,750. He said yesterday that his share of the family house might be bought by the trust fund established in his wife's name, raising possibly £20,000 which might be paid to Lord Aldington. That would only be available if it

was accepted in final settlement.

The trust fund has raised some £90,000. Richard Rampton QC, the lawyer who defended Count Tolstoy in his libel action gave £5,000 recently.

A spokesman for Allen & Overy said yesterday that although Lord Aldington's offer to accept only £300,000 plus costs, foregoing £1.2 million of damages, had been rejected by Count Tolstoy, the firm was still instructed to limit enforcement to £300,000 plus costs. If Count Tolstoy could not pay they would have to take instructions from his wife's solicitors as to how to proceed.

Count Tolstoy said that if his offer was not accepted he would petition for bankruptcy when he returned from holiday on September 1. "On the basis that the sooner I go in, the sooner I come out."

In the ordinary course bankruptcy lasts for three years.

Scots television scholarship

A LINK between Stirling university and Hollywood will bring American television and film expertise to the Scottish industry.

The American television producer David Jacobs, creator of *Dallas*, *Paradise* and *Knock Landing*, has endowed a scholarship to enable a Stirling university graduate to study each year at the university of California.

The David Jacobs Scholar will also gain hands-on experience through an internship with the Academy of Tele-

vision Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, before returning to Stirling to take a M Litt degree based on research in the field of television and media studies. The student will be expected to seek work in the Scottish media.

The first recipient of the scholarship is Mark Grindle from Evesham, Hereford and Worcester. He is a Stirling university film and media studies graduate, aged 28, who has been working for the BBC since graduating. His aim is to settle in Scotland.

Hunting vicar ends animal service

A HUNTING vicar has called off an open air service for animals rather than prey on them.

The RSPCA criticised double standards and the Devon and Somerset Residents Association for Deer Protection condemned the vicar for not including deer in his prayers.

Despite the protests, Mr Hancock, aged 61, who held his first animal service eight years ago, had planned to hold a similar event on the village green later this month - until

urging him to pray for hunted animals rather than prey on them.

Mr Peter Baker, chairman of Holford parish council, said: "We don't want another demonstration on the village green and we asked the vicar to take it somewhere else. There are plenty of other places in his six parishes where he could hold the service."

Holford parish councillors, who voted seven years ago to ban the Quantock Slaghounds from the village, put a stop to it.

Deadly smoke or load of hot air?

The vaporising of dental fillings during cremation may cause high levels of mercury pollution, a scientist warns

A newly launched theory that British crematoria are releasing potentially harmful amounts of toxic mercury vapour into the atmosphere looks set to ignite what, on the face of it, could turn into the most macabre environmental debate of the year.

The unlikely source of the alleged problem is the mercury-based alloy that has been used to fill decaying teeth for almost 200 years. According to Dr Allan Mills, of Leicester University, the temperatures inside crematorium furnaces are high enough to evaporate dental mercury. Assuming that, by the time they die, most adults in Britain own at least five mercury-based fillings, the total amount of toxic mercury vapour being spirited into the atmosphere by crematoria could constitute an environmental hazard, he warns.

Expounding his concerns in today's issue of *Nature*, Dr Mills calculates that the chimney of a typical busy city crematorium in Leicester, where more than 3,000 bodies are cremated annually, could be pumping out as much as 11kg of dental mercury a year. Mercury is toxic in minute amounts — the prescribed upper limit for atmospheric mercury is less than a millionth of a gram per cubic metre.

Medical opinion has long held that mercury-based fillings pose little threat to the health of their living owners. Although some mercury probably evaporates when old fillings are drilled out for replacement, the amount released is so tiny that it is unlikely to cause problems.

But the fillings of the dead could, if Dr Mills is right, pose an altogether more serious threat. "It could be that it is not a hazard at all, but I don't know why it would not be," he says. His chief aim is to persuade the Environmental Health Authority to investigate the magnitude of the "possible problem", a mission that could be accomplished only by installing equipment to monitor trace emissions of

mercury inside a crematorium chimney. So far, concern has been expressed in official quarters but no money has emerged to pay for a monitoring experiment.

In The Netherlands, where a shortage of burial land makes cremation essential, many crematorium chimneys are being fitted with filtration devices.

But the Federation of British Cremation Authorities is unimpressed. "We are very much geared to avoiding emissions, particularly visible ones, which could prove upsetting to members of the public," says Peter Wilson, the organisation's secretary. He is sceptical about the dental fillings claim and says that ultimately it will be for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution to decide whether there is a real problem or not.

Just like any process that results in atmospheric emissions, cremation will be subject to an entirely new set of pollution controls when the Environmental Protection Bill, due before parliament later this year, becomes law. Crematoria will for the first time be required to measure the levels of specified substances emitted from their chimneys.

Carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride, a number of organic substances and smoke particles, which are already filtered, have been earmarked for monitoring, but not mercury.

The struggle to keep emissions below the specified guidelines may lead to the upgrading of cremation equipment and the installation of filtration devices. Some crematoria will have to replace their equipment completely, and the operation could turn out to be very costly, Mr Wilson says.

One hope is that the government will make supplementary funds available to local authorities short of cash to enable them to carry out the necessary changes.

DAVID CONCAR

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Discovering the truth in a word.

The courts may be interested in a new test that shows your use of language is as individual as a fingerprint, Nigel Hawkes reports



Comparing styles: Andrew Morton searching for inconsistencies

Could the "confessions" of the Birmingham Six and the men jailed for the murder of Carl Bridgewater, the newspaper delivery boy, prove their innocence? A new method for the scientific analysis of literary style suggests that they might.

Dr Samuel Johnson believed that every individual possessed a unique style of utterance in prose or speech. "Why, Sir," he replied to a query from James Boswell, "I think that every man whatsoever has a peculiar style, which may be discovered by a nice examination and comparison with others."

Two scholars at the department of computer science at the University of Edinburgh, Andrew Morton and Professor Sidney Michaelson, have published a method for the scientific analysis of literary style, which they believe makes that nice examination possible.

It can be applied to prose or poetry, to the sublimities of a police confession and to the threat of a confession and it threatens to transform many old arguments about the integrity of texts. The researchers have already applied it to samples of Greek text, to the Federalist Papers written by the framers of the American Constitution and to a doubtful Shakespeare sonnet.

Mr Morton says he has also found inconsistencies in the confessions of the men who went to jail for the murder of Carl Bridgewater and in the confessions that convicted the Birmingham Six. If the value of the method as evidence of authorship can be proved to the satisfaction of the courts, it might become as useful in forensic science as the fingerprint.

Curiously, the method works as well with transcripts of speech as it does with written text. The way in which individuals speak or write appears to be ingrained, unchanging and inimitable.

Mr Morton was, until his recent retirement, a minister in the Church of Scotland. Parallel to his ministry has been a scholarly career as a student of classical Greek and of biblical texts. For the past 20 years he and his colleague Professor Michaelson have been searching for a systematic way of analysing texts.

The problem is to find a way in which the characteristic habits of different writers can be teased out and displayed. These habits could be the length of sentences, the frequency of occurrence of nouns, or of short words.

More than 30 years ago, W.C. Wake, the industrial scientist, showed that different writers of classical Greek do produce sentences of characteristically different

lengths. His method, unfortunately, worked much less well in English, where the difference between writers was too small to make discrimination possible.

Nor is it worthwhile simply to count the occurrence of a word or group of words, for it has been shown that most words occur at different rates in different kinds of sentences. A sample of dialogue, with shorter sentences, would throw up a different rate of occurrence of the word chosen.

To be effective, any analytical method must take account of the length of sentences. The measurement of the frequency of occurrence of any word must be seen in the context of the length of the sentence in which that word appears. The method used at Edinburgh to do this is called a cumulative sum chart, or csum chart for short.

The first stage is to prepare a chart of sentence length. This is done by calculating the average sentence length in the sample of prose, then

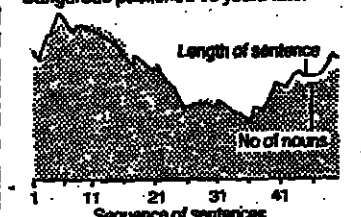
counting the number of words by which every successive sentence is either greater or less than the average. These differences are then added together in succession to form a cumulative sum. The csum values are then plotted on graph paper, with the sentence number as the horizontal axis and the csum as the vertical axis.

The next stage is to analyse in the same way the occurrence of words within the sentences. Suppose, for example, that an individual's use of two- or three-letter words is absolutely consistent. The csum chart measuring the frequency of such words will have exactly the same shape as the chart of sentence length. Printed on transparent paper and appropriately scaled, the two charts will lie more or less exactly on top of each other.

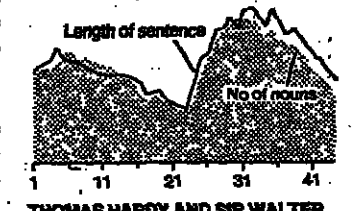
What happens if, in the middle of a piece of text by one author, there are inserted a few sentences by another whose habits are different? Then the two charts will diverge: no

ANALYSING A LITERARY STYLE

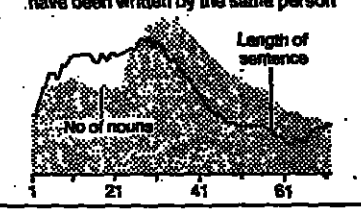
TWO SAMPLES OF SIR WALTER SCOTT
The first 25 sentences are taken from *The Antiquary*, published in 1816, and the next 25 sentences from *Castle Dangerous* published 16 years later



TWO SAMPLES OF THOMAS HARDY
The first 22 sentences are taken from *The Hand of Ethelberta* written in 1876, and the next 22 sentences from *Jude the Obscure* published in 1893



THOMAS HARDY AND SIR WALTER SCOTT COMBINED
Putting together extracts from the two authors clearly shows that their cannot have been written by the same person



one of the hardest tasks for traditional literary detectives. At, or near, the point where the foreign material has been inserted, the two curves will diverge sharply before returning to a similar shape. It is impossible to specify exactly where the insertion has been made, but it can be done within a sentence or two.

It can also distinguish attempts to imitate a writer's style, even when the imitation is skilful enough to convince the casual reader. Jane Austen's unfinished novel, *Sanditon*, which stops abruptly at sentence 73 of Chapter 11, was later completed in a polished pastiche of the Austen style by an author who described herself simply as "Another Lady". The point at which Austen left off and the other lady began is impossible to distinguish by reading the novel; but the csum plots show a clear divergence at this point. The differences are not large, but they are absolutely clear.

Applications of the method are obvious. Mr Morton is keen to apply it to disputed confessions, which he says are often a mix of styles. "Partly what the man says, partly what the police want him to say, partly what others have said." Applied to the confession of Timothy Evans, hanged in the 1950s for a murder committed by John Christie, the method shows that the first 40 sentences are consistent, the next 40 a confusion of styles, and the last 40 recognisably Evans's but with intrusions in another style.

He has also worked on more recent cases, examining the confessions in the Carl Bridgewater and the Birmingham Six cases, none of which appear to be written in a consistent style. He has investigated recent claims by Americans of a "new" Shakespeare sonnet (he doubts them) and studied the poems of Robert Burns. Checking a claim by Iris Murdoch that she consciously uses a different style in writing philosophy than in her novels, he shows that it is less different than she supposes.

Mr Morton does not expect to be embraced by the literary critics for his contribution to their art. He has mostly found his claims ignored or laughed at, perhaps because few literary critics have any training in science or statistics.

That is one reason why he has devised his new method, which requires no statistical knowledge. "It is flexible and sensitive, and judgments can be made by eye, laying one chart on top of another," he says. An interesting test will be to see whether the courts are willing to accept his evidence, and what credence they accord it.

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In the heat of battle

IN ANY normal summer the desert-camouflaged Jaguars would have looked incongruous against the green background of the airfield at Colchester, but this year they blended into the burnt grass and only looked out of place when seen against the hedgerow oaks as they took off. The freak weather, with temperatures in Norfolk consistently in the late 80s and 90s, will have started the process of acclimatisation of their air and ground crew. This is an essential step before they can become an efficient fighting force. The conviction that as soon as they were in position they would be ready to tackle the Iraqis was physiologically unsound, however patriotic, even though acclimatisation to the extreme heat of the desert is surprisingly fast.

As far as it can, the body adapts to high temperatures within 14 days, a period divided into two phases. In the first, 48 hours, troops should do practically no work, for any exertion accentuates the electrolyte imbalance in the body caused by excessive sweating. Thereafter the percentage of salt in the sweat starts to fall, so that within 14 days it becomes as dilute as it ever will, only 0.09 per cent sodium chloride. After this, salt is conserved, and heavy

work, even if it causes profuse sweating, becomes possible. Acclimatised heavy workers can usually obtain all the salt they need by taking it liberally with their meals. As salt tablets can cause gastric irritation they are no longer medically fashionable: salted drinks and food are considered better ways for compensating the loss.

In Britain, salt intake is usually around three to four grams a day. In the desert it needs to be increased at least fourfold, perhaps much more if exertion has produced great sweating. The forces face three direct dangers related to the heat: heatstroke, heat exhaustion and heat cramp.

In the Thirties, even before the fighting in the desert wars of north Africa had stimulated interest, physiologists, including such great names as J.B.S. Hal-

dane, had worked on man's adaptation to abnormally high temperatures. In heat exhaustion, excessive sweating is responsible for the symptoms, which include weakness, nausea, vomiting and fainting. The patient also looks grey and clammy and has a slow pulse, but quickly recovers after fluid and salt replacement. If taken by mouth, one level teaspoon of salt and eight level teaspoons of sugar to each litre of water is the standard mixture, a cocktail which sounds disgusting but is readily drunk by people who are dehydrated, and is actually preferred to plain water. Pre-war experiments with miners sweating it out in the coal fields showed that dehydration alters the sense of taste.

Conversely, heatstroke, the sunstroke of Victorian novels, from which the wearer of the pith helmet is not protected, is due to the body core temperature being so raised that the heat control mechanism is destroyed. Sweating stops, the skin is dry and red, and the temperature finally rises to levels which can cause death or lasting brain damage. The onset is sudden, and heroic measures are needed to cool and resuscitate the patient. Heatstroke becomes more likely if protective clothing has to be worn against gas attacks. Heat cramp, like heat exhaustion, is caused by salt loss. The abdominal and limb muscles may go into painful spasm.

The days before the expedition left were busy with inoculations. The forces were given protection against tetanus, polio, typhoid, hepatitis A (gamma globulin), hepatitis B and meningitis. They were started on anti-malarial tablets, Paludrine, and units checked that their supplies of anti-diarrhoeal treatments were available. The medical teams were warned of skin diseases such as prickly heat, fungal diseases and leishmaniasis, and reminded of the dangers of desert snakes and scorpions.



Hot work: American soldiers combating the heat in the Gulf

Visions of eternal youth

THE desire to defy Shakespeare's prediction that old age must inevitably be "sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything" is strong. Few of the over-sixties who feel that the daily round of trivial tasks is becoming increasingly taxing, and that the wrinkles on their face and the deepens on their necks are becoming more noticeable, notice that research on the growth hormone has shown that in some cases it ironed out the wrinkles and restored lost vigour. Quite apart from the cost, there are medical reasons why there is no immediate likelihood that the growth hormone will be handed out in the old people's home with the morning tea.

But the lives of many elderly people would be improved immeasurably if they could continue to read. All too frequently, advanced age is spoilt by failing sight, often due to degeneration of part of the retina, the macula. Pulse magazine reports that a doctor in Seattle, Washington, has claimed that macula degeneration can not only be delayed, but treated, by using zinc selenium, vitamin E and an amino

acid, taurine. These minerals in vitamin E are known to have anti-oxidant qualities capable of mopping up dangerous free radicals.

The claim has been made that these vitamins and minerals, together with betacarotene and vitamin C, have a potent anti-cancer and anti-heart disease role.

Dr David Weeks, of Edin-

Madness in the genes?

POLITICIANS, those depressed by their early morning waking, and other insomniacs, join farmers by starting their day by tuning in to Radio 4's *Farming Today*. Recently it broadcast a story which may explain some of the obvious contradictions in the possible relationship between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), scrapie and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent.

Dr Paul Brown and other research workers from the United States National Institutes of Health have evidence that there may be a mutant gene that increases human susceptibility to scrapie and hence, im-

probably, BSE, which would render a small minority of people vulnerable to the infecting agent. This proposition might account for the apparent racial differences in the incidence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease: it is very high in some Jewish sheep-eating groups (although the number of cases bears an inconsistent relationship to their sheep-eating habits), whereas New Zealanders, who consume huge quantities of mutton, have no higher incidence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease than beef eaters in other countries.

If Dr Brown's work is confirmed, we can expect an increase in the number of cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in people to follow the BSE outbreak but, unless there has been a change in the virulence of the infecting agent, no great epidemic.



Food for thought: evidence is growing that the diet of a mother-to-be might have a critical effect on the health of her child

Weighing the evidence

Every pregnant woman knows she is responsible for two lives — her own and that of the baby she carries. The more conscientious will rigorously avoid alcohol and tobacco and will try to eat a healthy diet. At the same time, the mother-to-be is under pressure from society and the antenatal clinic, to watch her weight.

The latest research not only emphasises the importance of eating well in pregnancy, but goes much further. To carry the ideally healthy baby, it is proposed that the woman needs to have been well nourished from childhood, and perhaps from the time when she was in the womb. In other words, pregnant women are responsible for the health of their own children, and, ultimately, for that of their grandchildren.

Does this mean that the old advice to eat for two should be revived?

Professor David Barker, of the Medical Research Council (MRC) and an expert in disease patterns, has spent years studying the effects of low weight at birth and in childhood on the subsequent risks of succumbing to heart disease, or suffering from high blood pressure. As the director of the MRC's environmental epidemiology unit at Southampton University, he has long suspected that the regional differences in deaths from cardiovascular disease, not explained by differences in income, smoking, alcohol consumption and dietary fat intake, might be due to variations in the health of the mothers of the people who die.

While other scientists could not contradict his theory, they challenged him to find a mechanism which would explain why this should be the case. Professor Barker thinks he has found at least part of the answer.

He and his colleagues discovered that maternity records kept at Sharrow Green Hospital, Preston, between 1935 and 1943 went into unusual detail about the conditions of both the mothers and their babies. These included the baby's head circumference, weight and, most interestingly for the researchers, the weight of the life support system linking the baby with its mother — the placenta. Researchers tracked down the babies, now middle-aged adults, and visited 450 who were still living in Lancashire. Those who had been disproportionately small at birth in relation to their placentas, or whose bodies

had been small compared with their heads, had higher blood pressure in adult life. Why should this be, and what has it to do with maternal nutrition?

According to Professor Barker, big placentas exist to grow large babies. A disproportion between one and the other suggests the baby did not reach its target size.

"At the point where the fetus starts to fatter, things happen to the baby's circulation which we don't fully understand," Professor Barker says. "These adaptations could lead to changes to the arterial structure which result in hypertension in later life."

In the past, obstetricians have judged success at the birth of a 7lb or 8lb baby. We now know that this cannot be viewed as a success if the baby — from its placental size — should have been 9lb or 10lb.

One piece of scientific research on its own cannot be conclusive, and Professor Barker and his team are repeating the study by following up babies from another hospital which kept equally detailed records. "Our study at Sharrow Green Hospital provides clear

Should a woman watch her weight during pregnancy, or follow the traditional advice to eat for two? Ann Kent looks at new research suggesting that a mother's diet could create a generation of health problems

evidence that the growth of the foetus was the major determinant in whether high blood pressure would develop in that individual in later life," he says. "Now we need to know which nutrients critically determine growth and we are carrying out research to try to discover what they are."

Professor Barker does not think nutrition at or around the time of pregnancy is the whole story. "The size of the baby is strongly related to the size of the mother — and her height will have been determined before she was two years old. Studies in Norway, Finland and the United Kingdom have shown that height is inversely related to cardiovascular mortality — in other words, taller people are less likely to die of heart attacks."

"At the moment I can't prove that the growth of the foetus is restricted because of the mother's nutritional state. But it seems likely that if a baby fails to grow it is because it is not getting the materials it needs."

Do not such ideas put a tremendous responsibility on the pregnant woman?

Alison Powell, the deputy national secretary of the National Childbirth Trust, points out that many women simply cannot afford to eat what is generally regarded as a healthy diet. Professor Barker counters: "There is no need for mothers to feel guilty because I don't think we yet know what constitutes healthy eating. But my research opens up immense possibilities in the early detection of those who are at increased risk of cardiovascular disease. I find the future prospect of preventing heart disease by improving maternal and infant health very encouraging."

Not surprisingly perhaps, Professor Barker's ideas arouse more enthusiasm among scientists than among child-birth reformers.

Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, of Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, one of Britain's leading researchers into the causes of heart disease, says: "The last 20 years have been taken up with the equivalent of the free will theo-

rists who believe that people can reduce their risks of cardiovascular disease by changing their diets. Professor Barker represents the opposite view — he is a determinist who thinks that the roots of the disease lie in what happens before you are born."

Professor Michael Crawford, the director of the Institute of Brain Chemistry and Human Nutrition (to be set up next month), says that although his interest lies in brain development rather than cardiovascular disease, "Professor Barker and I seem to have arrived at the same conclusion from different points."

Professor Crawford and colleagues at the Nuffield Laboratories of Comparative Medicine have analysed the diets of 500 pregnant women and found that those who eat poorly are more likely to have smaller babies. Their research, published earlier this year, found that all the women consumed enough protein for their needs. However, those with babies weighing less than 3½lb (the international definition of low birthweight) were less likely to eat breakfast and generally ate less

food. They consumed 300 fewer calories a day than women with normal birthweight babies and took in fewer vitamins and minerals. Women who had babies in the optimum weight range consumed an average 1,951 calories daily.

"We can't afford to be complacent about the problem of low birthweight," Professor Crawford says. "Every year nearly 30,000 babies are born below 2,500g (5½lb) in England and Wales, and of those about 10 per cent will have a severe defect of the nervous system leading to handicap."

Dr Roger Whitehead, the director of the MRC's Dunn Nutrition Centre, says that there are grounds for concern about the pressures on young women to be thin. "Because we lead such physically inactive lives, the only way to achieve that thinness is to eat very little indeed. Women on weight reducing diets have very similar calorie intakes to poor women in the Third World. If someone has been in the habit of keeping their weight unnaturally low before pregnancy, the chances are that she will carry on the same eating habits during pregnancy. There are dangers in

consuming too little food in pregnancy."

According to Dr Iain Chalmers, the director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, doctors and midwives have widely differing views about how much weight a woman should gain during pregnancy. "What is being weighed during those visits to the antenatal clinic is a long way from weighing the baby. It includes the surrounding amniotic fluid, the increased body and blood mass of the mother and any fluid which she is retaining. Despite this, some pregnant women are tyrannised with their weight gain — and told that they should not be putting on so much. The implication is, of course, that they should cut down on the amount that they eat."

"In fact there is no evidence that restricting weight gain reduces either the woman or the baby's chances of developing problems. When doctors and midwives are questioned about how much weight women ought to gain, they give widely differing answers."

According to Dr Whitehead, eating for two is not necessary, but eating properly for one most definitely is. Unfortunately, the experts seem to agree with Professor Barker that we do not yet know exactly what eating properly should entail.

As Professor Crawford says: "We can't claim to be well nourished while we have this massive toll of heart disease and breast and colon cancer, which are all associated with the diet of the western world."

Cold comfort comes to an end as Cambridge feels the big chill

TRANSPLANT surgeons have reacted with dismay to the news that the Medical Research Council (MRC) has decided to stop funding a group of ten researchers in Cambridge who study problems in the freezing of human tissue. Some 70 specialists in the field, including Terence English, the president of the Royal College of Surgeons, Professor Benjamin Bradley, the director of the UK Transplant Service, and Sir Roy Calne, professor of surgery at Cambridge, have written to the MRC to say how highly they value the work of the group, which is led by Dr David Pegg.

The MRC's decision was made in spite of plans by Cambridge University to set up a new department of transfusion medicine — a natural home for a tissue bank of human spare parts — which would depend on the skills and research of the team threatened with dispersal.

Thousands of spare-part operations are carried out in Britain every year. Last year there were 1,837 kidney transplants alone. But twice that number of patients live restricted lives on kidney dialysis, at higher cost to the NHS, while waiting for a kidney to become available.

Transplant surgery is constrained by the difficulty of matching patients with the limited number of organs which are available. A kidney has to be used within 36 hours of removal from the donor if it is to be transplanted successfully. A liver keeps for only 24 hours, while hearts or lungs have to be used within three to six hours. Many donated livers go to waste, because the hundreds of patients whose livers fail each year die in a few hours or days, so that it is often impossible to match a liver in time with a potential recipient whose tissue type is compatible.

If only organs could be preserved intact indefinitely, or even for a period of weeks, opportu-

Transplant surgeons protest over a cut in funding for research into the freezing of human tissue

nities would be transformed. But hopes of a quick breakthrough have been disappointed. "The problem for whole organs is much more difficult than it is for the freezing of embryos," Dr Pegg says. "The snag with freezing is that when water turns into ice crystals inside an organ it damages the tissue. A fertilised human egg is a single cell, and when water freezes around it, the cell does not notice the difference. But when water freezes inside a blood vessel, it swells like ice inside a burst pipe, and ruptures it."

This phenomenon makes nonsense of the claims of groups in the United States that they have been able to deep-freeze the bodies of the dead until a cure is found for the conditions that killed them. "That is not science, but a con-trick designed to extort money from the bereaved," Sir Roy says. "But their activities cast no discredit on serious research, and I am sure they did not influence the MRC's decision."

Dr Pegg's team has been working at Cambridge for ten years, and progress has admittedly been slow. The damning verdict of the MRC's cell board earlier this year was that their work deserved a "beta" rating — worthy of support, but not urgent enough to "have a significant influence on the development of the research area."

This analysis is strongly disputed by transplant surgeons. "It is reasonable and proper that the MRC should take a broad look at the work its groups are doing, and close the unproductive ones, or advise them to concentrate on the

areas which show most promise," Sir Roy says. "This is a very active unit — small, not taking a lot of money, and the only one of its kind in Europe. There are very few units that I know of working in similar areas in America. It is quite unjustifiable to destroy the group's morale by describing its work as below standard."

The MRC provided the team with £250,000, out of the MRC's overall budget of £180 million. Commercial sponsorship would raise ethical problems, because trading in human organs for profit is frowned upon.

"Our decision was taken as a result of our normal procedure for reassessing the work of groups every four years," an MRC spokesman says. "A subcommittee of our cell board visited the unit and found that its work fell short of the standard required, by agreed criteria. The group has been isolated from advances in clinical procedures, and its work seemed largely unchanged since the last inspection in 1984. The scientific staff are not being made redundant, and will be asked to put up proposals for their future work."

Since their special field is the freezing of tissue, they will presumably be redeployed into similar work. "But the team itself will be dispersed, and it would take years to build it up again," says Myc Riggsford, of the UK Transplant Service, which runs the register that links organs with patients in Britain and abroad. "I believe one of the MRC's criticisms was that the team's work has no current clinical application. But if the proposed Cambridge tissue bank is set up, it would need cryobiologists to run it. That would open up the prospect of joint funding for the group by the MRC and the regional health authority. Dropping the group raises serious questions about the way the MRC makes decisions."

GEORGE HILL

The prospect of preventing heart disease by improving maternal and infant health is very encouraging

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Cry Woolf, and watch the eyes glaze over

The Virginia Woolf industry rolls on, Victoria Glendinning reports, but the queen of Bloomsbury can still dazzle

Why does the heart not lift? Why is your eye even now, veering from this column to something, anything, that has nothing to do with Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury? The admirers and executors and publishers of Woolf and the Bloomsbury group have very nearly killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

The general reading public, in the 1970s and early 1980s, fell on the many volumes of Woolf's letters and diaries with delight, and on all and any biographical material about her, her family and her friends, with a greediness and sometimes prurient appetite. The interest was largely a gossip interest. Some people who knew all about the intricate relationships between these people had only a nodding acquaintance with her work and may never have looked at a painting by Vanessa Bell. Never can any group have been so fully documented and discussed — first by themselves, conveniently, and then by posterity. For some, Bloomsbury became an industry, for others a cult and, for some, in the end, a pain in the neck.

Woolf's writing remains the only justification for the circus to go on. We are moving into a new phase. She comes out of copyright next year, which is the signal for a flood of new publications. The Hogarth Press, founded by Virginia and Leonard Woolf in 1917, is getting in first with this "Definitive Collected Edition" — all nine of the novels (*Between the Acts*, *Jacob's Room*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *Night and Day*, *Orlando*, *To the Lighthouse*, *The Voyage Out*, *The Waves*, *The Years*), plus a reprint of the biography of 1972 by her

nephew Quentin Bell. Already out from Hogarth are single-volume selections from her letters and diaries and next month, in the same celebratory series, her hitherto unpublished girlhood diaries. Mr Bell's biography still reads very well and has the immediacy and authority that only he could provide. But nepotism discretion may have blurred some edges. Chatto has commissioned a new biography from Hermione Lee.

The nine novels in the Hogarth set are scholarly editions, the different editors listing variants at the end and, in the case of *The Voyage Out*, substantial revisions made by the author herself at different stages. The un-academic, thoughtful introductions, however, are in every case either by

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Hogarth Press, £25

Mr Bell himself or his half-sister Angelica Garnett. This publishing programme represents the last throw of the old guardians of the flame.

For, with the ending of copyright, the descendants and Hogarth Press are no longer in control of the field. Blackwell is preparing to bring out its own hardback edition of the nine Woolf novels. They will also be coming out in Penguin, and from the Oxford University Press in the paperback World's Classics series. This flood of republishing means 27 new introductions, not to mention notes, and not to mention parallel republishing packages of Woolf's shorter fiction and non-fiction. Lots of jobs for the boys, or rather, for the girls.

The circus has moved on. Bloomsbury may no longer be the imaginary playground of the chattering classes, which is probably just as well both for them and



The heart of the Bloomsbury industry: Virginia Woolf's writing is the only justification for the circus

for Bloomsbury, but Woolf is big in women's studies and feminist criticism. Who shall deny, Woolf wrote in *Jacob's Room*, that in certain respects "every woman is nicer than any man?" Certainly not me. Yet it is ironic that one who insisted on the androgyny of art should become monopolised by the ghetto.

It is ideologically correct to study the lives and the writing of working-class women, but there is not enough of it about, for obvious sociological reasons. Woolf did not understand uneducated

people at all, and the elitist aspect of Bloomsbury is a difficulty; but like Sylvia Plath, Woolf has become the locus for investigations of the woman writer as abused, victimised and suicidal. Male-induced pathology and psychosis are a focus, and the fertile potential of relationships with other women: a study of the creative intimacy between Virginia and her sister Vanessa is forthcoming (by Jane Dunn), and between Virginia and Vita Sackville-West (by Suzanne Raitt).

But whatever the abuse of the

goose, the eggs remain golden. Open one of these beautifully produced volumes anywhere and, dazzled and intrigued, you have to go on reading. "Then consider the effect of sex — how between a man and a woman it hangs wavy, tremulous, so that here's a valley, there's a peak, when in truth, perhaps, all's as flat as my hand. Even the exact words get the wrong accent on them. But something is always impelling one to hum vibrating, like the hawk moth, at the mouth of the cavern of mystery..."

Black view of London colour

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

THE LATE CANDIDATE

By Mike Phillips
Michael Joseph, £12.99

contemporary social and political context and well-drawn characters are, unusually, supported by a plot below his best standards.

● **Admit to Murder**, by Margaret Yorke (Mysterious Press, £11.99). A young woman disappears after choir practice, leaving an assortment of theories and a household teeming with hang-ups. Twelve years later, the young copper in the investigation returns, more senior, to the area, and reopens the case, resulting in a veritable outpouring of secrets and skeletons. Ms Yorke's mastery of obsession and claustrophobia well to the fore.

● **Bimbo Heaven**, by Marvin Albert (Macmillan, £11.95). Pete Sawyer is a French-American gumshoe who has the good idea of plying his trade on the Côte d'Azur, which means he can use all the slang and methods of a Yank private eye while sipping pastis in sun-drenched villas rather than bad whisky in sordid downtown offices. But baddies are baddies anywhere and his attempt to deliver a letter at the behest of a beautiful Hungarian puts him in conflict with some somewhat unsavory Riviera types when the deliverer goes missing. Mr Albert knows his patch and there's a constant supply of good-lumoured action.

● **Shadows in Bronze**, by Lindsey Davis (Siddhick & Jackson, £13.95). Ancient Rome's own private eye, Marcus Didius Falco, in his second adventure, this time as a sort of tec to the Emperor Vespasian, trying to ward off imperial and personal enemies while pursuing his own amorous schemes. Falco is a charming rogue, and Rome adapts easily to being a kind of AD 70 Los Angeles. It's fun, and I don't care whether or not it's historically authentic.

● **John Cressy's Crime Collection 1990**, edited by Herbert Harris (Gollancz, £12.95). Annual proof that the crime short story is not about to die, with the usual galaxy of blood-and-inkers showing off their command of the lesser length and escaping from their stereotypes. Ripley, Keating, Lovesey, Fraser (Lady A) and Symons among the 16.

SAM (for Samson) Dean is, I believe, the whodunnit's first English black private eye. That alone would give Mike Phillips's books curiosity value, but not necessarily satisfaction. Happily, on the evidence of *The Late Candidate* (his second), Mr Phillips delivers quality as well. Sam Dean, a freelance journalist by trade, sleuth by accident, is a full-blooded creation, streetwise, tough and randy but sensitive and emotional as well, with perceptive and refreshing things to say about the politics and sociology of being black in today's London. He is asked to look into the stabbing of a childhood friend; the search involves him in the complexities and corruption of left-wing government and its relationships with the ethnic groupings around it. Convincing and exciting.

● **Take**, by Bill James (Macmillan, £11.95). Ageing robber plans an easy heist, uncannily partnered by generation gap young tearaways. Old adversary Chief Superintendent Harpur gets hint of the crime, but not the details. The two men play their respective games carefully, competing for slivers of information about each other's plans. A superior tale of cops and robbers, subtle and riveting to the last page.

● **Sunshine Enemies**, by K.C. Constantine (Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95). Small-town top cop Mario Balzic's mother is dying, a dodgy preacher is pressing him to clamp down on porn mags and a local degenerate is slashed to pieces. Balzic juggles his emotions and professionalism to satisfying outcome. As usual, crackling authentic dialogue, and as-it-really-is storylines. No diminution of Mr Constantine's top-drawer skills.

● **The Dead of Winter**, by Michael Allegretto (Macmillan, £11.95). Denver private eye Jacob Lomax is hired by barber-cum-bookie to seek missing daughter; the following day client is blown up. Lomax sniffs around for possible links between the disappearance and the homicide, finds daughter not as virginal, papa a lot shadier than first realised. In mood and style, reminds one of Ross Macdonald, than which there are few greater compliments.

● **A City of Strangers**, by Robert Barnard (Bantam Press, £12.99). Lout, foulmouth and drunk Jack Phelan has won the pools and threatens to move his egregious family into the respectable part of town. Appalled future neighbours plot to stop him; then he dies in a deliberately started blaze. Mr Barnard's usual talents for precise

Scaling comedy's heights

John Nicholson

THE SNAPPER

By Roddy Doyle
Secker & Warburg, £11.95

BEDROCK

By Lisa Alther
Viking, £13.99

SUN BUBBLE

By Jane Gaskell
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £13.50

per. The Rabbittes are a noisy, turbulent household with passionate, changing enthusiasms. One day the twins are set on becoming drum majorettes, the next they are on the road to stardom as ballroom dancers. Only Veronica Rabbitt, their mother — and wardrobe mistress — suffers. And when Darren loses his place on the football squad, the Barrytown Wheelies Under 14 team is created overnight. Their coach may not understand the workings of a stopwatch, but

Jimmy Rabbitt is not a man to worry about details.

Teacher Roddy Doyle's first novel, *The Commitments*, was greeted with near-delirium. It is easy to see why. Mr Doyle has an astonishing talent for turning the humdrum into high comedy. The Rabbittes do no more than other families — they eat, drink, argue, watch telly and wind each other up. But the dialogue of *The Snapper* crackles with wit and authenticity. The characterisation, too, is superbly accomplished. Even the family dog rings true. As a result, you finish the book hungry for more and in no doubt that this is the real McCoy.

Lisa Alther is a very different bowl of multigrain. Her first book, *Kinflicks*, was one of the better feminist bookbusters of the mid-Seventies. Since then, there have been two others, both commercially successful, but neither moving significantly from the original formula. Miss Alther's heroines tend to be arty women, usually Southerners by birth, who

wrestle with the problems of success in exotic locations. Their own sexuality is always high on the list of problems to be resolved. Bisexuality is the norm, with women on the whole being each other's preferred option. Men are portrayed as something between a necessary evil and messy pets, requiring house training and a consistent discipline, and allowed into the bed only when no better companion is available. *Bedrock* is more ambitious than its predecessor, *Other Women*. Photographer Clea Shaw is uncertain how best to cope with the Empty Nest syndrome. Unnerved by a mugging, she is convinced that New York is no longer her sort of town. Her husband Turner, a marketing vice president, spends most of his time abroad while her best friend — and former lover — has too many problems of her own to help Clea find the *Bedrock* on which to base the rest of her life. So she heads for the hills.

But will Clea find happiness in smalltown Vermont? There's no

shortage of interesting company in Roches Ridge. There's a female bodybuilder and a lesbian commune, a couple of psychopaths and a group of born again fanatics. It goes without saying that the local RC priest is sexually active (well, it worked for Colleen McCulloch) and something very unpleasant seems to be going on at the undertaker's. So much for Clea's naïve belief in the innocent simplicity of Arcadia. Still, the locals do let her organise a carnival and Elke the sculptress finally overcomes her distaste for rural life, and her reluctance to give their relationship a second go. So things end reasonably happily for Clea.

Which is more than can be said for Julia, the heroine of Jane Gaskell's latest assault on the best seller lists. Julia is another disgruntled child of the Sixties, a magazine journalist with a delinquent daughter, junkie lover and problems with her builders. *Sun Bubble* is a weird, shapeless book, set in a PR person's vision of contemporary London. The only message I could pick up is that when all else fails, spiritualism may help. Hm.

Monaco gets a cameo role, surely in homage to past casting-budget fantasies.

The final events are pretty surprising. The likeable May Frampton gradually becomes a morality figure, growing up and out of earthly misery and Performing Good Works With Other Women. Ms Gems has indulged herself by combining too many of her favourite character traits, ideals and miracles in one person, let alone one story, but she is never dull.

Writers about the future seem to divide into those who see it as savagely and openly degenerate and those who mask the horror with smooth white tiling and orders softly given by intercom. Kathy Page has rather ill-advisedly chosen the latter for *Island Paradise*. Laurie has grown old in the society 100 years hence where obligatory euthanasia, or "timely death", is doled out to everyone when they reach a certain age. She looks back 20 years to when she took a holiday in one of the world's few remaining holiday resorts, and saw how fragility the world was run.

It all begins promisingly with the usual imagined scenarios of "age counselling" and couples only being allowed children if they have been together for more than five years with steady incomes etc; all good populist fear-jerkers. But the narrative is as arid as the world it describes: of course the powers-that-be had been lying and murdering people all along. The measured calm of Ms Page's style is better suited to observing violence. *Island Paradise* is too coolly predictable even to be ironic.

Age-old question of guilt

PAPERBACKS

Tania Glyde

HAVE THE MEN HAD ENOUGH?

By Margaret Forster
Penguin, £4.99

MRS FRAMPTON

By Pam Gems
Bloomsbury, £4.99

ISLAND PARADISE

By Kathy Page
Minerva, £4.50

MARGARET Forster's novel is about a family unable to pack up its granny in its old kitbag. It bares the filthy underside of the tasteless ornament called family obligation that gets passed around year after year. It is seen through the eyes of old Mrs Mackay's daughter-in-law and granddaughter as she descends from amiable dotiness to senility to helpless death. Through these outsiders both the shabby and the Christlike among closer relatives may be more keenly appreciated.

Ms Forster conveys a whole world of detailed domestic distress and agonising decay. Mrs Mackay ruins the food lovingly cooked for her with salt and then, having playfully scooped at it with her bottom row of false teeth, refuses to eat it. Her life revolves around tea, which fast transforms itself into extra work for all around. Those burdened with caring for her, aside from fantasising about her death, feel happiest watching her transfer meals to the toe of a Wellington boot because "there is no need to do anything". Their collective loathing for retirement homes with their saccharine methods of screwing money out of the distraught continually rises. They all just keep on trying doughtily to love this "abandoned lost heap of years". Ms Forster cries out about the paradox of a family's duty to its old in a society that has left such allegiances behind long ago. To read this extraordinary book is to make an intensely personal journey through extremes of horror and guilt.

You might think that a playwright's first novel would rely on fine, sparse dialogue and courted

You'll be frightened to laugh

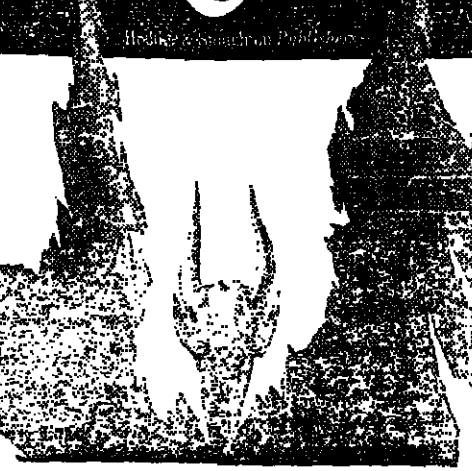
"Guaranteed to confuse and frustrate the literary critics, it is almost unclassifiable yet sleekly brilliant. Bizarre, original, and wholly entertaining."
— Starburst Magazine

"Chilling event follows chilling event... The plot thickens. Your head spins... James Herbert turbo charged and spewing black fumes."
— Val Hennessy, Daily Mail

"He is one of the few writers taking forward the tradition of the great supernatural storytellers — and being innovative."
— (London) Evening Standard

JAMES HERBERT

CREED



Saturday Review

Head that rolled
David Puttnam came, saw and was conquered by Hollywood. His failure is the subject of a sobering new book by Charles Kipps.

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BOB CALROW

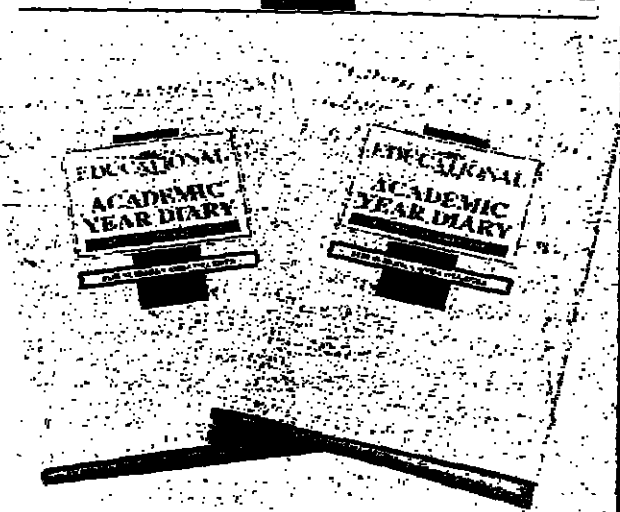
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ARTS

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Receding hair, diminishing returns

Geoff Brown reviews *Die Hard 2*, *Mignon Has Left*, *Out Cold* and an exhibition at London's Museum of the Moving Image

Playing cat and mouse with the vicious terrorists who grab control of Washington airport on Christmas Eve, Bruce Willis mutters: "Man, I can't believe this. Another Christmas. Another basement. Another elevator. How can this happen to the same guy twice?" Willis's character, Detective John McClane, is obviously no moviegoer, otherwise he would be tediously familiar with Hollywood's sequel mania. *Die Hard*, the story of the reluctant McClane's absurd battle with terrorist invaders of a Los Angeles office block, notched up sizeable profits at the world's box offices during the winter of 1988. Since Hollywood can only match one film's success by duplicating the winning ingredients, another ruined Christmas for McClane was inevitable.

So here we are, faced with *Die Hard 2* (15, Odeon Leicester Square). A new batch of terrorists plan to intercept the arrival of a Noriega-type dictator, transported to the United States for prosecution on drug charges. McClane is on hand to meet his wife arriving on an internal flight; but her plane, along with many others, spends most of the film desperately circling with dwindling fuel above a paralysed airport.

Armed with a fancy gun, plus an infinite capacity for being blood-greased, squashed, and hurled from high places, McClane tries to pin down the terrorists' HQ. After each bruising encounter with the enemy's firepower he staggers five increasingly covered in the make-up man's very best blood. Along the way, a plane from London (belonging to "Windsor Airways", no less) collides with the runway after being fed the wrong data, crumpling into a pretty fireball. To make matters cheerier, skies and landscapes are clogged with a deluge of snow and ice. Excess is the name of the game.

John McTiernan, the director of the original *Die Hard*, kept such a grip on the high-rise action that the story's implausibility could be safely ignored until the end credits. Finnish director Renny Harlin (leaping into the big-budget squadron after *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4*) is less fortunate. An early set-to among a labyrinth of baggage conveyor belts firmly establishes his frenetic style. But without the support of a sturdy storyline, the splashy array of

visceral excitement—matched to a bombastic music score one can scarcely hear for gunfire, squeals and crashes—steadily withers on the vine.

Part of the trouble lies with the story's origins: a novel by Walter Wager called *58 Minutes*, originally destined for a separate film but diverted into a Bruce Willis vehicle by the simple need to justify a prospective budget of \$40 million (\$21 million). The rewrite was plainly superficial. Both McClane's wife (Bonnie Bedelia) and the obnoxious television newscaster played by William Atherton have the pinched feeling of characters shoe-horned into the script, while McClane, the be-mused cop in the wrong place at the right time, has shed some individuality to become just another dogged action man: Rambo with a receding hairline.

Surrounding characters are cut from the same tired cloth: the ice-cold mercenary with Jack Palance cheekbones, the blustering, foot-dragging airport security chief, the surprisingly plucky chief engineer. For all the state-of-the-art violence and Bruce Willis's star presence, we might almost be back in the Seventies, watching one of the ludicrous *Airport* series. This is no way to guarantee *Die Hard 3*.

Audiences allergic to Hollywood's summer blockbusters do not, at the moment, have much else to chew on. *Mignon Has Left* (12, Metro), a first feature by a young Italian director, Francesca Archibugi, offers nothing but filmsy pleasures. These are mostly spiced by Stefania Sandrelli's buoyant performance as a hard-pressed mamma coping with one of those messy but lovable movie families. Italians, at least, have clutched the film to their bosoms: in 1989, *Mignon Has Left* won five local "Oscars".

Mamma Forbicioni rules over five venetian children in a disorderly Rome apartment; father is mostly absent at his second-hand bookshop, pursuing an affair with the cashier. Enter Mignon, an aloof, 15-year-old niece from Paris, forced to stay with these middle-class relatives when her father, a builder, is imprisoned for using sub-standard materials. Mignon's cold, scornful manner wins her no friends, except cousin Giorgio: bespectacled, studious, lonely, sensitive, and a sitting target for Cupid's arrow.

Sandrelli radiates lightness and

grace as the harassed mother, always trying to put her best smile forward; young Leonardo Rota makes a creditable fist of the lovelorn Giorgio. But for the plot to work properly, Mignon's predicament must inspire a modicum of sympathy, and Céline Beauvallet's sullen performance never gives us a chance to take her character to heart. Throughout, Archibugi's handling is fluent, though unremarkable, apart from a cloying close-up of one of Mignon's tears, which Giorgio tenderly navigates with his finger and lifts to his lips. I can just imagine *Mignon Has Left* as a restaurant dessert: thin, flaky pastry, a filling rich in additives, and possibly a glazed cherry.

Audiences outside the London area have the option of feasting on *Out Cold* (15), a forlorn, unfunny slab of black comedy filmed in Canada several years ago and misguidedly taken off the shelves. The unfortunate director is Britain's Malcolm Mowbray, who scored brightly enough in 1984 with Alan Bennett's tale of a contraband Yorkshire pig, *A Private Function*. But not even Woody Allen or all four Marx Brothers could make a silk purse from this sow's ear of a script about the intrigue surrounding an odious, small-town butcher, frozen to death among his carcasses.

Throughout, Mowbray and his photographer, Tony Pierce-Roberts, pursue a drab, realistic look in the vain hope of bolstering their shoddy material. But the cold shafts of light and peeling interiors only heighten the unpalatable sight of decent performers (John Lithgow, Teri Garr, Randy Quaid) sinking in the dialogue's mire. This film, with *Killing Dad* and *Consuming Passions*, forms a terrible trio that bludgeons the art of black comedy almost to death.

When current films get too depressing, there is always the past to contemplate. Until September 12, the Museum of the Moving Image, under Waterloo Bridge, houses a travelling exhibition of Warner Brothers artefacts grandly entitled *Dream Merchants: Making and Selling Films in Hollywood's Golden Age*. Isolated items stimulate and charm: the image of animals being marched two by two onto their sound stage for the 1936 *Green Pastures*, a fascinating



Bruce Willis in *Die Hard*: Bemused cop in the wrong place at the right time, again

breakdown of studio jobs, with "Director (Motion Picture)" a whisker away from "Dish Washer". Yet the cumulative effect is desultory: too many photographs are too small, or too ordinary, while the bland captions, pock-marked with mis-

spellings, serve to puff the old studio system rather than give an incisive modern overview.

These faults cannot be laid entirely at the MOMI's door as the show originated in America at the International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House.

But they highlight a continuing MOMI problem: how to entice the public to revisit the museum for its yearly handful of changing displays. As long as there remains no way to avoid the overall admission charge of £3.95, a limp little exhibit is not the answer.

TELEVISION

Wider audience, narrower compass of small screen

SEXUAL abuse of children has taken over from the battered baby as the dire crime of our time. Wider-spread up the classes, too, for it was possible to think babies were battered by uncouth, unemployable step-fathers with unphotogenic faces or snot-nosed mothers confusing their offspring with ashtrays. Lucy Gannon's Screenplay, *Keeping Tom Nice* (BBC 2), found a way of focusing both crimes upon a single victim and added the twist of making him a spastic, epileptic, incontinent 24-year-old, slumped on his airbed, wheelchair or bean-bag and over-attentively tended by his parents. "Keeping him nice" was his mum's bright little, tight little

phrase for it; keeping him clean, fed and, crucially, keeping him for themselves.

The effect of this devotion upon Doug, the stricken father, was rendered more intriguing by casting John Alderton in the role. His more familiar television persona, currently to be seen in the Sunday repeats of *Forever Green*, is of a slightly quirky but, under it all, warm and tender-hearted buffoon. Put a crumpled hat on his head, stick a pipe in his mouth and he would pass for Monsieur Hulot.

With this in mind, the scene when he tries to stop Tom's nightly howling by bashing his head down against the pillows came, inevitably, as a jolt. Doug's

facilities were clearly unhinging from the start, snapping at his college-educated daughter, belligerent towards the wary young social worker who has noticed marks on Tom's wrists; but the pent-up rage and disappointment released in the attack (instantly followed by grief) triggered feelings of alarm whenever father and son were alone thereafter.

Originally a stage play, or StagePlay, as the BBC would probably call it, the events seemed awkwardly compressed this time around. The time-span of Doug's eventual crack-up was effectively shortened into four or five brief scenes at Tom's bedside, but earlier episodes contained more

cherries than cake. Under Louise Panton's direction, the cross-cutting between Tom's sister (Henrietta Bess) — "I want to get you away" — and the social worker (Sean Chapman) — "I want to get him away" — suggested identity of concern. Yet while Tom's evident delight when she bounces on his loins could be accepted as jolly sibling fun, the later fondling she encouraged needed a lot more context than the author supplied.

At least these characters came across as credible and all of a piece; likewise Linus Roache as the contorted victim with sharply in-turned hands like the flowers of streptocarpus. With Tom's mother, the characterisation came

awry. Played by the splendid Gwen Taylor with the right mask-like indifference to reality, she was required to give lucid self-analyses beyond the scope of her faculties. Having commented on her daughter's way with words as though it was a sin against the Holy Ghost, her self-definition as a choreographed ballerina revealed the perceptive skills of the author, not those of an emotionally dishonest mum.

In the theatre there was time and space for this to feel right. As so often, the one-hour slot on television is a Procrustean bed for stage drama.

JEREMY KINGSTON

BRIEFING

Cameron's kingdom

CONSERVATIONISTS and historians have joined forces to fight plans to demolish the Isle of Wight home of Victorian portrait photographer Julia Margaret Cameron. In 1859, Cameron bought two cottages on the edge of Lord Tennyson's estate in Freshwater and joined them with a tower, creating Dimbola Lodge, a 20-room house that became a focal point of Victorian artistic life. For the next 15 years, she used the house as the setting for many of her photographs of the leading scientists and artists of the day, including Darwin, Holman Hunt and Tennyson himself.

Now the local planning authority has given the go-ahead for half of the property to be torn down to make way for a block of flats. Local residents meet tonight in a last-ditch effort to save Dimbola Lodge, even though they realise it is probably too late to stop the demolition. Richard Greenwood, spokesman for the local conservation group, Island Watch, says residents are "desperately hoping somebody will come along and buy this place from the developer before the demolition can happen."

Colin Ford, head of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, is urging the government to step in and save Cameron's house. "Because it encapsulates such an important part of British cultural heritage, we want the government to stop anybody knocking it down," he says. "To do so would be vandalism."

Julia Margaret Cameron: her house is under threat; see "Cameron's kingdom"

The Windsors, which will hit the West End next year, has music by Les Reed, hitherto best known for providing Tom Jones with such immortal hits as "It's Not Unusual" and "Delilah".

The "sneak previews" at Buxton will launch a two-year campaign by the Derbyshire opera house towards mounting an annual "Festival of Musicals" beginning in spring 1992. Its organisers hope that such a festival would combine productions of rare and classic musicals with a quest for new ones.

Pryce of principles

JONATHAN Pryce may be smarting at the "moral decision" now threatening his Broadway employment in *Miss Saigon*, whereby Actors' Equity in New York has balked at allowing a white Briton to play the role of an Asian. But followers of this controversy might do well to think back to 1986, when Pryce made a "moral decision" of his own which at that point threatened almost as many jobs as will be at risk if Broadway does lose *Miss Saigon*.

The earlier sticking point was a Royal Shakespeare Company *Macbeth* at Stratford, with Pryce in the title role, which had received £60,000 in sponsorship money from Barclays Bank. To protest at the bank's then-links with South Africa, Pryce threatened to withdraw from the show, thereby risking its cancellation and the loss of work for his fellow actors. Forced to choose between star and sponsor, the RSC chose Pryce and alternative funding was found.

Palace rumours

AUGUST has not been a kind month to Palace Pictures, once the golden boy of new-wave UK film distributors. Rumours of a cashflow crisis have been circulating for some time, particularly after the unhealthy box-office performance of the in-house production *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl*. Furthermore, there were suggestions that the delayed and then over-hurried release of Mike Hodges' thriller, *Black Rainbow*, into the cinemas at the end of July was a symptom of a company looking for a quick trip in the video store, where life is cheaper and returns can be higher.

The botched release of *Black Rainbow* has already raised the ire of the film's producers, Goldcrest. Now Palace appears to have fallen out with another client — Lew Grade's former company, ITC — over the Val Kilmer picture, *Kill Me Again*. While Palace argues that the release of this film had to be delayed because negotiations were not complete, the company was less keen to acknowledge that, as a result, pre-release marketing costs, which some have put as high as £50,000, had to be written off.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

In touch with Mother Russia

Violinist Vladimir Spivakov, Proms debutant, talks to Hilary Finch

One of the indelible images left by last year's Proms was that of Yuri Bashmet performing the Schnittke Viola Concerto. It was the year of Bashmet, founder of the Moscow Soloists, in Britain.

This year, the Proms are to be visited by a parallel phenomenon: the violinist, Vladimir Spivakov, and his Moscow Virtuosi. Meeting them recently at Spivakov's own Alsace festival at Colmar, there was a strong sense of déjà-vu: the sightseeing between rehearsals, the lacrimae jokes, the entourage of visiting soloists and friends, the bel canto string playing, the melancholic encores.

Spivakov himself, boyish with short back and sides, may look younger than Bashmet, but he is 45, and founded his group seven years before the Soloists, who were themselves formed only when Bashmet left the Virtuosi.

So far, in Britain, the robust charisma of Bashmet and the Soloists has tended to eclipse Moscow's more sophisticated elder statesmen. The Virtuosi have found a firmer foothold in America. Spivakov currently has no British agent, despite playing as soloist with orchestras such as the English and Scottish Chamber, the London Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic.

He is known primarily through a steady trickle of recordings. After a "disappointment" with the agent Harold Holt, concert engagements are now thin on the ground. Even the Proms has been set up through Columbia Artists in New York.

Spivakov, like Bashmet, is guarded, even defensive, in conversation. Both tell tales of being made to feel the outsider at school and conservatoire. The violinist, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, speaks of how it was made

extremely difficult for Jewish students such as Bashmet and Kremer to meet for chamber music-making. Spivakov's response was to learn boxing at an early age.

In 1969, Spivakov took the first prize at a Montreal competition, from under the bow of Gidon Kremer, but "music has never been anything to do with competition for me. This was my way of getting out of the army. No agent, no government body would arrange any work for me." Later, he was to help the pianist prodigy, Evgeny Kissin, to do likewise.

After Montreal, Spivakov was banned from travelling to the West until 1974. Then the composer Krenikov decided he wanted a performance in the West of his violin concerto, and a month later, Spivakov was in Italy with Krenikov, Svetlanov and the USSR State Symphony. "I faced, for the first time, the reality that the same group of people could decide, at will, my fate, either way."

After making it clear that he could not spend his life playing one concerto, Spivakov was allowed to go to Bulgaria, Armenia, Hungary and Canada with the Leningrad and the Leningrad Philharmonic. The vice-president of Columbia Artists invited him to New York. His solo recital debut in 1975 was met with a standing ovation half-way through.

When, four years later, Spivakov founded the Moscow Virtuosi, *Moscow News* was to write: "This small collective farm of musicians earned as much in one year as two or three large collective farms, due to their highly skilled labour in the concert halls of Europe." The earnings rubbed hard against Spivakov's already tender social conscience. The violinist has now set up a

foundation at his festival in Colmar to raise money for needy children.

The decision to form his own orchestra arose from a similar fusion of personal and altruistic passions. He made his conducting debut in Chicago and was invited to form his own Chicago Chamber Players. Then the war in Afghanistan severed all links between the United States and the Soviet Union. Spivakov returned to Moscow and formed his band there. That had the advantage of his being able to obtain exit visas, at the very least, for a sizeable body of friends and colleagues.

Meanwhile, two colleagues had gone West. Mikhail Rudy, the pianist, had defected while in Paris in 1977; Sitkovetsky had emigrated to New York in the same year. For Spivakov, things were more complex. His mother, who had lived through the siege of Leningrad, was ill, and "after the Revolution it was as if our race ceased to exist. I felt Jewish-Christian, blended, assimilated."

Nevertheless, this September, Spivakov is taking the Virtuosi to Spain for two years, with all their families. The project is the result of an initiative from Spain's Royal Foundation for Chamber Music, who invited him to direct the Marbella Festival, and from the region of Asturias where they will be based. "When people used to move away from their native lands, they often did not know if they were going to come back. But I do not want to sever all my links with the Soviet Union..."

● Vladimir Spivakov and the Moscow Virtuosi play Mozart's *Symphony No 29* in A major, Shostakovich's *Chamber Symphony* and *Violin's The Four Seasons* at the Albert Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm (broadcast live on Radio 3).



Vladimir Spivakov: Boyish 45-year-old Soviet violin virtuoso

REVIEWS

Slick piece in need of spice

OPERA
The Duenna
Playhouse, Edinburgh

SO FAR, opera in Edinburgh this year has been something of a miss and miss affair. After the basic ineptitudes of Martin's *The Greek Passion*, heard in a concert performance on Monday, Prokofiev's *La Duenna* can be heard, courtesy of the Bolshoi Opera.

This is far slicker music than Martin's, but it still does not gel satisfactorily. Prokofiev fails to get his version of Sheridan's comedy of romance, class distinction and disguise off the ground. It is a work that seems more longwinded than *Der Rosenkavalier* and more convolutedly complex than *Figaro*, without the rich inventiveness of either. Its musical language seems strictly conservative. A touch of spikiness might have gone against the Stalinist grain, but would have done wonders for the opera.

Nevertheless, within its carnival-like limitations, the Bolshoi Opera's production, by Boris Prokofiev, does its best, helped by Valery Leventhal's designs, by some fine singing in the best, powerfully penetrating Russian tradition, and by some astute stagecraft.

Set is quite simple: a gallery on each side to the front of the stage, a large number of cloth banners that descend and ascend and thus become screens which obscure and reveal each other, and a turntable through which characters enter and leave. The decor hints at a mish-mash of images



Galina Borisova (right) in the title role, with Vladimir Kozlov and Galina Chernoba in *The Duenna*

and styles. Eighteenth-century French, commedia dell'arte, 20th-century surrealism, and for the scene involving drunken monks, a touch of Beryl Cook-like caricature are all here.

It does not matter that so many different visual ingredients are thrown into the pot. Colour and illusion of extravagance are the most important elements here. In this respect, I particularly enjoyed the scene at the waterfront fishmarket, where plastic fish were handed about, and two-dimen-

sional piscine cut-outs descended from the heights as if all were symbols of the god Mercury in some baroque extravaganza.

Aleksander Lazarev conducts the Bolshoi Orchestra in a performance of Strauss's spaciousness and often almost Straussian opulence. The *Duenna* herself, in the first of the two casts, is Galina Borisova, who shows a nice line in portraying the classic, over-the-top, ugly dame. Alexei Maslennikov and Mikhail Krutikov are the appealing complementary pair

of Don Jerome and Mendoza, while Igor Morozov and Arkadiy Mishchenko sound suitably blooded as the young men, Ferdinand and Antonio. Galina Chernoba and Marina Slutova are bright-voiced as their eventual partners, Louisa, who appears as *La Duenna* as well as her fellow heroine, and Clara, who in the guise of a nun experiences some trouble with her wimple. Confused? I was.

STEPHEN PETTIT

THEATRE

Treasure Island
Assembly Hall
Edinburgh

FRANK Dunlop may now be the director of the Edinburgh Festival and therefore a pretty august personage; but in earlier incarnations he created the Pop Theatre Company and the Young Vic, both of which managed to prove it possible to find audiences among the not-so-old and not-so-high-brow. That spirit and those experiences have clearly helped shape his production of *Treasure Island*, or at least the best of it. It must be admitted that at the centre of an often wonderfully tempestuous evening there is something a bit wanting. The storm has, so to speak, a glass eye.

Why did Dunlop cast Hywel Bennett as Long John Silver? True, it can be rewarding to challenge a conventional interpretation or a supposedly definitive reading, especially one as firmly fixed in many of our minds as Robert Newton's majestic buccannier. Yet there are limits, and there is something in us that protests against extreme imaginative shrinkage.

In any case, styness is not

enough for Silver. He must have charisma, power and menace, because he must inspire respect, obedience and fear among men used to regarding their grannies as petty cash. Bennett displays no such mesmeric qualities. Even the parrot seemed unimpressed, flapping its wings and looking as if it was thinking of better places than his shoulder to perch.

The compensations are the production's energy and unsentimentality. Ugly pirates rush through the audience, and there is plenty of movement on the walkways, rope ladders and other impedimenta which embody a ship, a hill, a fort. The fights could be perhaps more realistic but, again, that may be the movie memories talking.

Walter Carr makes a genuinely unappealing Blind Pew, a tattered, broken old crow jerking across the stage in search of prey. Jimmy Logan's bloated, drunken Billy Bones manages to make Mummery's roars of "Shiver me timbers" and "Rum, me hearties" sound as if they might be delivered across a real bar and Frank Barrie is a refreshingly rough and aggressive Smollett. Dunlop's anti-heroic slant and deflationary tactics are not wrong in themselves. They just need to be more discriminately applied.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Cupboard Man
Gate, Notting Hill

THIS short one-man show, based on a chilling story by Ian McEwan, established the reputation of director Derek de la Cour as a master of the unnerving genre of theatre. Obsessions that straddle the boundaries of the mind being acted with a fastidious, almost dainty care.

Phelim McDermott's performance as the young man who chooses to live in a wardrobe was the company's Fringe First at Edinburgh several years ago. His youthful and deceptively fragile appearance have not changed since then, with tensely held limbs and carefully spoken account of a weird childhood suggesting a personality likely to fall apart if he did not think intently about every movement and phrase.

At the start of the play the cupboard doors swing open to reveal the young man disconsolately crouched among the hanging clothes. Keen to talk, he speaks of a loving mother so devoted to him that she kept him in nappies till adolescence and discouraged him learning to speak

until the day she switched her attention to a fancier man.

Oedipal crises are followed by terrified employment in a hotel kitchen where Pus-face, the loathsome cook, locks him in the oven and receives a terrible punishment. "That's how I sorted Pus-face out," he explains, in the neutral tones more suited to mentioning the choice of a brand of spaghetti.

Wearing his seriously over-washed woolly pullover, and staring from his cupboard with the level gaze of the infant Kafka or Antony Perkins at the gates of the Bates Motel, McDermott's performance, directed by Julia Bardsley, makes this 50-minute chamber a mesmerising piece of theatre.

Playing until Saturday, this production is the first in the Gate's three-week "Not the Edinburgh Festival" season. For the second half of the evening McDermott is joined by two other improvisation experts, Lee Simpson and Cuy Dantoni, in *The Institute of Curiosity and Execution*. This is the not obviously relevant title for an hour of sketches, all of them, I am assured, improvised there and then. Only the players' occasional corpsing makes it evident that they are developing their batty inventions as they go along. Clever stuff.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Everyman is stonily unregenerate, precludes any sense of moral struggle, but George Neilson's lavish production is polished and enjoyable, if you discount Marowitz's banal music and lyrics.

Archaios is a new wave French circus which has acquired a reputation for being bad, mad and dangerous to watch. Quite misleading (though invaluable as a punk surf). Archaios has a heart full of Gallic charm. There is romantic trapeze, a balletic bicycle routine and much innocent, whimsical business with fish and cars. I was reminded of Benet's *Dino*, and being a sucker for that sort of thing, entertained.

HARRY EYRES

NEW RELEASES

THE BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER (U): Endearing, Disney-style cartoon feature about a humble toaster who saves the world. Directed in 1987 by John R. Cherry. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

DAYS OF THUNDER (R): Block-buster racing drama from James Cameron. Cameron (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

THE KILLER (R): Stylish, over-the-top Hong Kong crime melodrama, equally drenched in blood and tears, with Chow Yun Fat as a conflicted hit man. MGM (01-436 6148).

NEW DIRECTORS COLLECTION 1990: Most top of short films from the British Film Institute's production unit, including: John Kovenewski's *Flames of Passion* (a gay version of *Blind Encounters*), and Anne Thew's *Encounters in the Evening*. Metro (01-437 0757).

ROMAULO AND JULIETTE (12): Corine Serrano's social comedy about a yachting factory boss who falls for his West Indian secretary. Longwinded, but with charming performances from David Auer and newcomer Frances Pledger. Barrow (01-436 6148).

WHERE THE HEART IS (15): John Boorman's allegorical comedy with Delaney Roman and Swedish hulk David Lindgren as a family in a Brooklyn tenement. Liberator, but visually striking. Cinescape (01-436 6148).

L'ATLANTE (PG): Jean Vigo's entrancing French film from 1934 - a hybrid, quasi-musical tale of newsworthy on a stage, marvellously restored with extra footage and marvellous performances by Dita Parlo and Michel Simon. Renzo (01-437 0757).

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III (PG): A sequel to the first two films of the series, with some amusing jokes at the Western's expense. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

BARRE THE MOVIE (U): Stand-by for the cartoon for youngsters, based on Joan Aiken's popular children's character. Barrow (01-436 6148).

BLACK RAINBOW (10): Mike Hodges' supernatural thriller about a clairvoyant (Robert Anton) who uncovers a sinister plot. Strong on odd atmosphere and really scary, though the sum of the parts is less than the parts. Curzon West End (01-436 6148).

BLIND FURY (15): Frantic comedy-adventure based on a Japanese samurai story, with Rutger Hauer as a band.

ABSDUR PERSON SINGULAR: A young man's search for a woman, directed by the author. Whittaker Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (01-436 6148).

BURN THIS (10): John McEwan's eye-opening play about the war in Laos. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-436 6148).

EARNING: Confusing and only fitfully successful parody on the values of TV soap. The Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-436 6148).

GASPAR: Hugh Laurie and Bernard MacMahon's comedy about the investigation of a man who has been in the hospital for 15 years. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-436 6148).

HENRY IV: Sound production of Shakespeare's masterpiece. Richard Henshaw as the man who must preserve the throne. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-436 6148).

HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Fanny Kestel and Peter Baskin in Simon Gray's excellent new play. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-436 6148).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

Vietnam war film, the mob. Director: Philip Morris. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

THE BOOST (18): Casper's tale about a husband's addiction to cocaine. Fine performances from James Woods and Sean Young, but the story is trapped in a rut. Director: Harold Becker. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

CINEMA PARADISE (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, an hugely appealing salute to the movies. Director: Giuseppe Tornatore. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (15): Woody Allen's engaging portrait of a lawyer and his assistant. Director: Woody Allen. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

CRUISE BABY (12): John Waters' raucous musical-comedy salute to the juvenile delinquency scene of the Fifties; the material with some wry before the end. Johnny Depp, Amy Locane. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

DARK ANGEL (18): Horror tale about a woman who is a vampire. Director: James Cameron. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

DICK TRACY (PG): The blockbuster of the year - a tale of a cop, though director John Dahl's style is too broad. Director: John Dahl. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

GREMLINS 2: THE NEW BATCH (12): Rousing sequel to the 1984 hit, which is a sequel to the first. Director: Joe Dante. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops. Director: James Foley. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

KAMIKAZE HEARTS (18): Raw American independent film, a powerful western between two men. Director: James Foley. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

WILD ORCHID (18): Barbra Streisand as a woman who is a lesbian. Director: James Foley. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

THE WOMAN IN BLACK (18): Director: James Foley. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

THE THREE SISTERS (18): Director: James Foley. Cannon (Tottenham Court Road) (01-436 6148).

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

CATALO

(a) A cross between the male buffalo and the female cow, an American acronym for cattle + buffalo: "Colonel Goodnight was the first man to experiment with crossing buffalo and cattle. A big herd of hybrids, called catalo, is now on his Texas ranch."

TOPARCH

(b) A ruler of a small district, a petty king, a princeling with more pomp than circumstance, from the Greek *topos* a place + *archon* to rule: "Toparchs, kings or nobles, were territories, such as were the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, the Kings of Jericho and Ai."

ERYNGO

(c) The candied root of the sea holly, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, formerly used as sweetener, and hopelessly though erroneously regarded as an aphrodisiac. *Mary Waver*: "Let it hail kissing Couffins, and soon Eryngos."

SANDESMAN

(d) A messenger, envoy, ambassador, chap to send on errands, from the genitive of the Middle English *sand* the act of sending: "Now are the sandesmen sent on their horses."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

FORBIDDEN PLANET

White to move. Can White win? The answer is yes. White can win by playing 1. Qxh5. This move is forbidden in the game of Chess, but it is a winning move.

CRICKET FESTIVAL

The 1990 Cricket Festival is taking place in London. The festival is a celebration of the game of cricket, and it is a great opportunity for fans to see some of the best players in the world.

CONSIDER US

We are considering the possibility of a new project. We are looking for people who are interested in the project and who can help us to make it a success.

ALAN BARKER

Alan Barker is a well-known figure in the world of chess. He has played many games and has won many titles. He is a very skilled player and is a great example to follow.

HAVING A BALL

Having a ball is a common expression. It means to be having fun or to be playing a game. It is a very simple expression, but it is a very important one.

DOMINION BOX OFFICE

The Dominion Box Office is a place where you can buy tickets for many different events. It is a very convenient place to buy tickets, and it is a great way to support the arts.

RENAISSANCE THEATRE

The Renaissance Theatre is a place where you can see some of the best plays in the world. It is a very beautiful theatre, and it is a great place to see a play.

DRURY LANE THEATRE

The Drury Lane Theatre is a place where you can see some of the best plays in the world. It is a very beautiful theatre, and it is a great place to see a play.

MISS SAIGON

Miss Saigon is a very popular play. It is a story of a young woman who is sold into slavery and who must find a way to survive. It is a very powerful play, and it is a great example of the power of the theatre.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

The Phantom of the Opera is a very popular play. It is a story of a young man who is disfigured and who must find a way to survive. It is a very powerful play, and it is a great example of the power of the theatre.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

The Woman in Black is a very popular play. It is a story of a woman who is haunted by the ghost of her husband. It is a very powerful play, and it is a great example of the power of the theatre.

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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

The Woman

BUSINESS

THURSDAY AUGUST 16 1990

City Editor
John Bell

Dollar at its lowest ever

THE dollar touched a record low against the mark in European trading yesterday. It was quoted at DM1.5530, its lowest since the deutschmark was introduced in 1948, and down from its DM1.5568 previous low set during Tokyo trading earlier in the day. It closed at DM1.5570.

Starting broke above \$1.90 for the first time in more than two years and touched \$1.9090, before closing at \$1.9025. The pound eventually reversed a modest fall against the mark, closing at DM2.9717, compared with DM2.9696 on Tuesday.

The yen, helped by the Tokyo stock market's third biggest one-day rise overnight, firmed from 149.50 to 146.90 against the dollar.

Dealers said weakness in the dollar was due to pessimism about American interest rates, America's huge budget deficit, and the cost of sending American military personnel to the Gulf also posed problems, said dealers.

In London, September Brent traded at \$26.15 a barrel, against Tuesday's close of \$26.70, after briefly touching \$25.75, as dealers assessed the implications of Iraq's peace agreement with Iran.

Chart analysts and dealers all expected the dollar to fall further still, with many citing DM1.52 as a target.

Developer down
Trencherwood, the Newbury property developer and housebuilder, has reported a £3.79 million pre-tax loss for the six months to end-April. The company made a £9.19 million profit last year. An 0.5p interim dividend compares with 1.5p in 1989.

Johnson slips
Johnson Group Cleaners is holding its interim dividend at 7p because of the uncertain economic climate. Pre-tax profits to end-June, excluding property sales, slipped from £9.7 million to £9.2 million. Turnover was £76.1 million (£70.2 million).

THE POUND
US dollar 1.9025 (+0.0080)
W German mark 2.9717 (+0.0020)
Exchange index 95.0 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1748.2 (+5.6)
FT-SE 100 2239.3 (+5.3)
New York Dow Jones 2751.49 (+3.72)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 28112.12 (+1439.59)
Closing Prices ... Page 25
Major indices and major changes Page 22

INTEREST RATES
London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15.14%
3-month sterling bills 14%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds Rate 7.45-7.45%
3-month Treasury Note 7.45-7.45%
30-year bonds 8.9-9.2%

CURRENCIES
London: £1: \$1.9025
DM: £1.5570
Sfr: £1.3600
Yen: £1.4690
New York: \$1: £1.9025
DM: \$1.5570
Sfr: \$1.3600
Yen: \$1.4690

GOLD
London: Gold 401.50 pm 398.40
Close 402.50-403.50 (22.11.25)
New York: Gold 403.70-404.20

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Sep) \$28.15/bbl (\$26.70)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES
Bank Buys Bank Sells
Australia \$ 2.45 2.35
Austria Sch 2.45 2.35
Belgium Fr 63.30 59.30
Canada C\$ 2.25 2.15
Denmark Kr 11.50 11.10
Finland Mk 7.34 6.94
France Fr 10.36 9.76
Germany DM 3.40 3.20
Greece Dr 255 235
Hong Kong \$ 15.50 14.40
Ireland Ir£ 7.34 6.94
Italy Lira 2036 1936
Japan Yen 255.50 245.50
Netherlands Gld 3.40 3.20
Norway Kr 12.00 11.30
Portugal Esc 204.80 194.80
South Africa R 13.50 12.50
Spain Ptas 166.75 156.75
Sweden Kr 11.34 10.74
Switzerland Sfr 2.05 1.95
Turkey Lira 5170 4770
USA \$ 1.9025 1.8025
Yugoslavia Dnr 25.00 23.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

Pipeline threatens British Gas industrial monopoly

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A PROPOSED £200 million north-south gas pipeline may reduce prices for industrial users and power generators and provide strong competition for British Gas which currently has a monopoly on gas distribution.

The proposal comes from Kinetica, a joint venture between Conoco, the oil company, and PowerGen, the smaller of Britain's two main electricity generating companies.

The pipeline, which would run underground from the Lincolnshire coast through the East Midlands to London, could meet about 15 per cent of gas demand. It could eventually meet about 20 per cent of total demand, according to estimates.

Norman Ellis, Kinetica's managing director, said: "We intend to be a major force in the gas business in the UK. The indications are that industrial customers

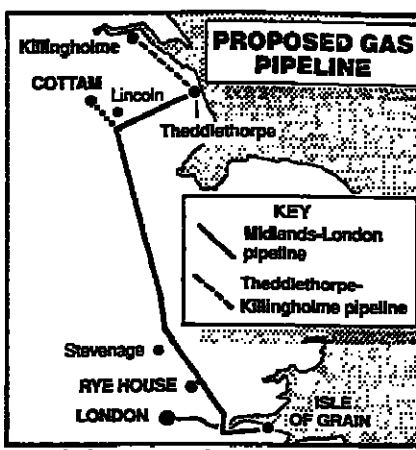
are very keen to buy from non-British Gas sources because they want to get their costs down."

He added: "For the first time, the industrial customer will be buying in a competitive market. That means competitive prices which will be lower than current British Gas prices. The prices struck will depend on how everything develops."

Detailed studies for the system have still to be done and the level of demand has to be assessed before a final decision is made.

The aim is to start construction in the summer of 1993 and aim for completion by late-1995. Depending on the likely levels of demand, the pipeline could be constructed in phases.

It will start at Conoco's gas terminal at Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire. It will run to a number of PowerGen stations, including Cottam in Nottinghamshire, Rye House in Hertfordshire and the Isle of Grain in Kent. Kinetica has already applied for



permission to build a pipeline from Theddlethorpe to its combined-cycle gas turbine station now being built at Killingholme, south Humberside. PowerGen is waiting for permission to build a gas-fired combined-cycle power

station at Rye House. It is considering adding gas firing to improve the efficiency of its existing oil-fired Isle of Grain station and its coal-fired plant at Cottam.

The government is coming under increasing pressure to set a firm deadline for the talks between the energy department and Hanson over the industrial conglomerate's possible bid for PowerGen (writes Martin Waller).

It is now accepted by all sides that a formal bid will not materialise until next week.

Although Hanson has completed the necessary due diligence enquiries and is now clear on what it is buying, the two sides are still wrangling over the terms of a purchase agreement.

The government is concerned that prolonged negotiations with Hanson could be seen as a handicap to other buyers, including the management buyout package being put together by S G Warburg. If the talks continue for much longer the

department can expect potential buyers in any subsequent auction to press for more than the three weeks set aside in the informal timetable to prepare their bids.

The date for the resolution of the PowerGen sale would also then begin to approach the start of the sell-off of the 12 regional electricity distribution companies in early November. The government is keen to avoid that.

There are still several outstanding problems between Hanson and the department. The government is insisting that Hanson issue shares as an incentive to the PowerGen workforce, despite the conglomerate's known unwillingness.

The cost of refitting two PowerGen power stations to cope with more stringent anti-pollution measures, set at £400 million, is also in dispute.

The total price remains the main debating point, however, along with any limit on just how much of PowerGen can be sold off in a given period.

Receivers appointed at Lowndes Queensway

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND NEIL BENNETT

LOWNDES Queensway, one of Britain's biggest furniture and carpet retailers went into receivership yesterday with debts of £300 million, putting about 4,000 jobs at risk. The group's shares were suspended at 14p, valuing the group at £12 million.

There is hope that customers who placed deposits with the group will get their money back. Lowndes had customer deposits of £23.8 million at its January year end, but it is believed to have put a £15 million insurance policy in place to protect customer deposits in the event of the business folding. Nor-

mally, Lowndes has about £14 million of deposits.

Nigel Hamilton and Terry Carter, of Ernst & Young, the accountants, were appointed as receivers after several days of meetings between Lowndes and its bankers. Lowndes, which was the subject of a £450 million highly leveraged bid led by James Gulliver two years ago, is believed to have requested its third refinancing package in a year.

The group's 270 shops were shut as the receivers attempted to assess the situation and value stock. Mr Hamilton said he was called in as a receiver by Lowndes bankers, who are led by Charterhouse Development Capital, at the request of the Lowndes direc-

tors. "There had been several weeks of meetings, reviewing cash flows. They came to a realisation with professional advice that they could not continue any longer without contravening the Insolvency Act."

Mr Hamilton said it was not known exactly how much the company owed, but estimated it to be "several hundred million". At the January year end, Lowndes debt was £295 million, £232.5 million of which is owed to the group's 21 bankers. But Mr Hamilton said a considerable sum was owed to suppliers.

Employees have been told that they will be paid as long as Ernst & Young is running the business. The receivers

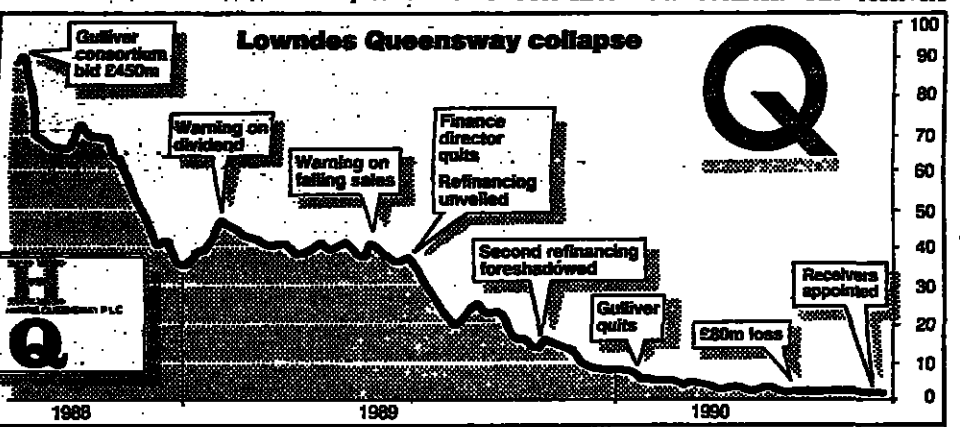
expect to continue operating the shops for at least the next fortnight, during which they expect offers for parts of the business.

Mr Hamilton said he thought it was disturbing that a company should go into receivership so soon after a refinancing had been put in place. Lowndes had a £70 million rescue package in January, which followed a £40 million refinancing package a year ago.

At the time of the January refinancing, Mr Gulliver left the group and Norman Ireland took over as chairman.

Shareholders and holders of the loan notes are expected to get nothing. Many institutions took large share stakes after the refinancing. Charterhouse has an 11.8 per cent stake and M&G, the asset manager, had a 15.7 per cent stake. Charterhouse said its exposure to Lowndes was mainly limited to the 87 million shares that it was left with after the rights issue, worth £4.35 million. However, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Charterhouse's parent, is also known to have subscribed to part of Lowndes' debt.

Comment, page 23



Men behind riches to rags story

Gulliver 'acts first and asks questions later'

JAMES Gulliver is an impulsive man. He often seems in a hurry and when sitting in a room, he is liable to fidget. He will not hesitate to pick up the phone and bawl down it if something or someone inflames his notorious temper.

This tendency to act first and ask questions later has led him into a number of unhappy business ventures. They all pale into insignificance beside the £450 million purchase of Harris Queensway. The deal raised eyebrows when it was announced in July 1988.

The Times wrote at the time: "The £450 million offer by the Gulliver-led consortium looks like an expensive entry ticket to several years of hard labour. It represents no less than 43 times last year's earnings."

The deal turned out to be the worst of his career overshadowing 23 years as a successful food retailer, first with Fine Fare and later as head of Argill, the supermarket group which owns Safeway and which, under Mr Gulliver, fought Guinness for control of Distillers in 1985-86.

Until Lowndes, it was the Distillers bid for which he was best known. His growing



Gulliver: hard taskmaster reputation as a champion of the Scots was endorsed when Guinness won Distillers, but was subsequently disgraced.

He has a reputation as a hard taskmaster, but employees remember that he would push himself as hard as anyone. He is also known for his energy, socialising and patriotism.

He has been married three times and has five children. His tastes are at the opposite end of the spectrum from his former customers at Lowndes. His Edinburgh mansion boasts a £40,000, 17th century dining-room suite.

Despite the failure of Lowndes, Mr Gulliver did not lose his personal fortune. He made his first million at the age of 33, but it was only two years ago, aged 50, that he said he felt a really wealthy man.

Harris able to leave business at right time

IT IS two years since Sir Phil Harris relinquished control of his family business, Harris Queensway, to James Gulliver in a deal that netted him a personal £69 million.

Harris Queensway, which Sir Phil had taken over at the age of 15, was valued at just £22 million when he brought it to the market in 1978.

Sir Phil is still remembered in the City for the timing that enabled him to walk away from a struggling business with a significant sum of money. His timing could scarcely be faulted again yesterday. He was on his yacht, off the south of France, and out of the firing line.

But there are those who believe his timing owes more to luck than to judgment. One said: "He had no option but to sell out to Gulliver when he did. The business had already gone extremely wrong. It's wrong to assume he saw it all coming. He was still charging around paying £10 a square foot for out-of-town space when others were being more cautious."

Sir Phil's skill, says an ex-employee, is that he is an extremely good negotiator and he is good with high street



Harris: mean negotiator property. "He is mean and vicious when it comes to negotiating and he knows most of Britain's high streets like the back of his hand. It's one of the reasons he is on the board of Great Universal Stores. He could look at a potential site, see how many people were walking around carrying shopping bags and accurately predict the annual turnover of the store."

Sir Phil, not yet 50 and knighted in 1983, spent part of the money he received for his stake on new businesses: Carpetright, a floorcovering retail chain, and Harveys, a soft-furnishing business.

Some believe he will feel a twinge of regret on seeing the business he built go into receivership. Others believe he will see it as a chance to do the ultimate deal.

ICI deal nets brokers £7.9m profit

By MARTIN BARROW

IMPERIAL Chemical Industries sold its 24.9 per cent holding in Enterprise Oil, the North Sea exploration and production company, for £680 million.

A block of 113.26 million shares was sold yesterday to Warburg Securities and Cazenove & Co at £6 a share in what is believed to be the largest bought deal on record in London.

The shares were then placed in the market with institutional investors at 607p a share in the space of just 30 minutes during early trading, netting the two brokers a combined profit of £7.92 million.

ICI sold the shares at a 10 per cent discount to Tuesday's closing price of 673p, suggesting that the company and its advisers were anxious to avoid a repeat of last week's failed placing of 29.7 per cent of Premier Consolidated

Oilfields by Kleinwort Benson Securities. Enterprise shares fell 52p to 621p.

Despite the substantial discount, ICI said it expected to include an extraordinary profit of £500 million after tax on its holding in results for the third quarter of the current financial year.

Elf Aquitaine, the French state-controlled oil group, which owns 25 per cent of Enterprise, held talks with ICI earlier this year. It declined to comment on the sale, which took place on a public holiday in France.

However, it is believed that Elf did not subscribe for any of ICI's shares and energy analysts said that the placing appeared to bring to an end all hope of a takeover bid by Elf.

Colin Short, ICI finance director-elect, said the sale represented "an excellent deal for ICI and Enterprise". Elf had been informed of ICI's intentions two days ago, but had not been offered a final

opportunity to acquire the shares in a single block. Enterprise Oil welcomed the disposal.

ICI obtained the Enterprise stake in 1987 in return for its interests in the Ninian oilfield in the North Sea, which were then valued at £115 million.

The chemical giant invested a further £146 million in respect of its share in an Enterprise rights issue.

ICI, which received £37.1 million in respect of its share of Enterprise's 1989 pre-tax profits, had been seeking ways of disposing of its stake for months but was handicapped by the lack of progress in talks with Elf.

However, ICI came under greater pressure to secure a speedy resolution to the deadlock after revealing first-half pre-tax profits down from 1925 million to £733 million.

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Sitting in hope: John Duggan at Craven Cottage

Stamford Bridge valuation falls 25%

By MATTHEW BOND

THE value of Stamford Bridge, the west London home of Chelsea football club, has fallen by 25 per cent in the past 15 months. It is now worth £30 million, according to Cabra Estates, the property company that inherited the ground when it took over Marler Estates last year.

Stamford Bridge was re-valued by Cabra's directors after they took advice from independent valuers who had estimated it at between £25-£45 million. The new valuation assumes that a planning consent to redevelop the ground, which Cabra says lapsed on a technicality, will be reinstated by Chris Patten, the environment secretary.

The write-down accompanied results for the 15-month period to March, the first results since Cabra acquired Marler. They revealed pre-tax profits of £3.63 million compared to £5.09 million in the previous 12-month period.

Cabra is hoping to hear from the Department of the Environment soon, both on Stamford Bridge and on its other London football ground, Craven Cottage, the riverside home of Fulham Football Club.

After tax, and a £2.87 million extraordinary item reflecting the cost of the Marler takeover, Cabra made an attributable loss of £731,000. No final dividend is being paid; an interim dividend of 1.25p a share was paid.

John Duggan, chairman of Cabra, says the company's projections indicate adequate cash flow resources for the foreseeable future.



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DAVID COAKLEY LTD

The final agonies of Lowndes Queensway are a further reminder that even the most straight-laced bankers are prone to fits of enthusiasm for risky ventures. In the 1970s they threw money at fringe property and banking ventures. This particular rush of blood to the head seriously threatened the stability of Britain's financial system. Those too young to remember would scarcely believe that the chairman of a high street clearing bank would ever be forced to make a public declaration that his company was not, contrary to widespread fears, about to go bust. But it happened.

Later, the international banking system blew billions on dubious loans to countries with appalling records as borrowers. The scars of that episode have been evident years afterwards in massive write-downs of those same ill-starred advances.

In the past few years financial engineers have held sway in banking parlours both sides of the Atlantic. In America especially, vast sums have been committed to highly leveraged buy-outs replacing boring, old

equity in company balance sheets with mountains of debt.

Lowndes Queensway's collapse has reawakened fears of that risky management buy-outs will threaten havoc on the banks as they succumb to high interest rates.

Nowadays British banks have hefty exposures to the buy-out fad. In filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission Barclays admits it has £1.4 billion outstanding to 160 companies. In April, Midland still had £1.9 billion in leveraged loans, the largest worth £160 million.

Some of the chickens have already come home to roost. Due to their sensitivity to interest rates, MBOs have been at the forefront of corporate failure, forcing institutions to enlarge their already overburdened bad debt provisions. Standard Chartered had to write off £25 million of its £400 million MBO portfolio in the first half of the

Buy-out chickens home to roost

COMMENT

year alone. But even as the bad debts mount, banks continue to deny they are concerned about their exposure.

Their lending to the sector is continuing, albeit more cautiously, as witnessed by recent buy-outs of Coloroll and Response subsidiaries.

True, many MBOs are trading successfully and will ultimately reap large profits for lenders, investors and their management alike. But others have been trading under the security of interest rate caps, which are now due to expire. When they are exposed to the cold blast of a 15 per cent base rate, they could join Lowndes in the graveyard, punching more holes in their bankers' balance sheets.

Even though the MBO lending problem is not on the same scale of Third World debt a decade

ago, it is another harsh lesson for banks who become dedicated followers of financial fashion. In the end of course, the customer pays.

Bought deal

Bought deals, where a securities house acts as principal in a share placing rather than agent, are becoming more expensive as they become more popular. Warburg Securities managed to persuade ICI to take a discount of more than 10 per cent on the overnight market price for its 25 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil, the biggest such deal so far.

This compares with discounts ranging from 1 per cent on Warburg's sale of a relatively small parcel of British Gas shares

to the 6.5 per cent discount at which Smith New Court placed Elders' 23 per cent holding on Scottish & Newcastle. There was a similar discount on the placing of the remaining Hong Kong government stake in HK Telecom. In between, however, Kleinwort Benson made a mess of trying to sell Burmah's former 29.7 per cent stake in the smaller Premier Consolidated Oilfields. Kleinwort aimed to push up the market price on the back of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait through making available large chunks of stock, but the institutions would have none of it.

Learning from the volatility of the oil price and oil shares in the middle of fast-changing political moves, Warburg dropped its target selling price at a late stage from about 625p to the realised 607p. Warburg feared that the market's capacity in uncertain times, especially because Enterprise is less known than most

companies of its size and half the stock was held by ICI and by Elf, the French state group.

ICI seems quite happy that Warburg made a pretty profit of nearly £8 million on its morning's work. But the caution seems to have been justified. Enterprise shares, after rapid recent gains, settled at 626p, down 43p, after the placing.

Perennial bid speculation had already subsided somewhat before the dispersion of ICI's shares. Anyone who still thought that Elf would turn its declared interest into a real bid must have ignored the warning against bids by nationalised foreign companies repeatedly issued by Peter Lilley and John Redwood at the DTL.

Elf's intentions remain unclear, though long-term minority stakes are not such a rarity in oil. ICI has spoiled the market for another early placing. A sale to a more acceptable bidder cannot be ruled out. But there is already a feeling in the City that Enterprise deserves to escape once and for all from the threat hanging over its head ever since RTZ's initial market raid.

IN SETTING up its enquiry into the supply of beer for retail sale, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission expressed good free market motives. These were: to increase consumer choice, to reduce the price of beer and to give greater freedom to tenants to meet their customers' needs.

But the MMC stumbled off the free market road and down the overgrown path of regulation. Its recommendations sought to control and regulate a complex industry and drive it into a well-ordered market. Once this tidy market-place had been established, the MMC hoped regulation would result in a neat parceling-up of the beer supply business and increased competition. The ending of vertical integration between brewing and retailing would, it was argued, free the consumer, cut prices and liberate tenants. Brewers would set out their stalls in one corner, and retail outlets would be found in another.

Many of us had our doubts — doubts that were shared by the MMC itself. For in the paragraph in which it made the recommendation for a ceiling to be placed on the number of on-licensed premises to be owned by brewing companies, the MMC pointed to the danger of abolishing the tie:

"... if the tie were to be abolished altogether, we believe that many regional and local brewers would withdraw from brewing, concentrate on retailing, and leave the market to domination by national and international brand owners."

The MMC's reservations, and those of many MPs, economists and both small and larger brewers derive from two sources. First, knowledge of the industry. It was predicted that brewers, faced with the choice of brewing or retailing, would simply sell off their brewing interests. This would lead to an inevitable concentration of brewing in the hands of fewer companies, and would provide opportunities for foreign brewing interests to buy into the UK brewing industry. The trend would be towards a few national, heavily promoted megabrews dominating the market. The losers in this process would be the

MMC takes a wrong turn to 'Fosterisation' of brewing



Meate: MMC strayed from good free market motives

consumer, and in particular consumers using marginally profitable pubs in rural and inner-city areas. Even the MMC did not produce evidence of large-scale consumer dissatisfaction. British beer was among the cheapest in the western world. There was a greater choice of beers than in other countries.

Massive amounts had been invested in the ever-popular British pub to meet consumer demands. By contrast with our rivals abroad, the British brewing industry was highly competitive. It took six national breweries to account for 75 per cent of the market compared, for example, with France, where two breweries accounted for 73 per cent. We

also have 30-40 regional breweries in this country.

Our reservations were based, too, on the Australian experience. Ten years ago, the tie between retail outlets and brewing was abolished there, resulting in massive concentration in the ownership of brewing. Today, brand choice has been reduced to two major suppliers, who have more than 90 per cent market share. Real prices have increased 40 per cent in eight years. The Australian government is being forced to reduce excise duty on beer in an attempt to revive the now almost defunct brewing industry. Were those of us who opposed the MMC's recommendations right to predict that these would lead to

the "Fosterisation" of the British brewing industry?

The answer could lie in the proposed transaction between Grand Metropolitan and Elders. Under this scheme, GrandMet will sell its brewing operations to Courage (the UK brewing subsidiary of the Australian-owned Elders). In return, it will be paid £366 million, while at the same time agreeing a ten-year supply agreement with Courage for the sale of ale and lager to GrandMet's enlarged estate of managed pubs.

Is not this deal, while appearing to diversify GrandMet or its brewing interests, a merger in all but name? It might remain within the confines of the new regulations but does it not clearly float their spirit and bode ill for the consumer? If the MMC agrees the merger, GrandMet/Elders will control a 20 per cent share of the beer market; and, as Bass already has a 20 per cent market share, a duopoly will, in effect, have been created.

There can only be one consequence. The remaining brewers will have to merge to compete. Allied-Lyons have already indicated their intention to do so; we can, therefore, predict a merger between Allied-Lyons, Whitbread and Scottish & Newcastle to follow the Grand Met/Elders deal.

This increased concentration of ownership will squeeze out smaller and regional brewers. It will reduce choice for the consumer and increase prices. It will inevitably lead to the "Fosterisation" of what has been a richly diverse beer market; all as a consequence of the MMC's misguided attempts to meddle in the complex and delicate market arrangements for the supply of a wide range of beer to the UK market.

At the very least, deals of this kind should be viewed with great suspicion by the government.

ROGER MOATE

● The author, Conservative MP for Faversham, Kent, was lead signatory on the early day motion against the proposal by Lord Young, the former trade secretary to implement the MMC report.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hazards of Sainsbury's

THE normally agile Christopher Joll, chief executive of financial PR firm Charles Barker City, has been walking with difficulty this week after a trip to his local Sainsbury supermarket in London's Cromwell Road last Saturday. He was somewhat shaken when, "as I was minding my own business in the checkout queue," a bottle of mineral water in the trolley in front of him exploded. His first reaction at being drenched in water was irritation. But he became more concerned when he looked down at his legs — bare below a neatly-pressed pair of shorts — and saw that they were covered in blood, having been cut by shards of glass. First to his rescue was the prospective owner of the bottle. "I shooed him away, insisting that I was all right, but then he said he was a doctor, that the cuts needed stitches, and that since he was a surgeon at the Cromwell Hospital next door he could sort me out straight away," says Joll. Three stitches and a butterfly plaster later, Joll discovered that the gentleman was in fact an Iraqi. "Shopping in Sainsbury's now seems to be as hazardous as doing business in Kuwait," he quips.

TERRY Wood, aged 53, a glib-tongued salesman at Sheppards, the agency broker 49 per cent owned by its staff, has been keeping a closely-guarded secret. His son Richard, re-

cently made redundant as a market-maker with First Equity — which claims to be the world's first ever inter-dealer broker — has just become a father for the first time, thereby making Wood senior a grandfather. "We reckon he is the only grandfather still working in the gilt market," an anonymous colleague informs me. "I had been trying to keep it fairly quiet. Wood admits, 'I'm not sure how I feel about it, it doesn't really make a lot of difference, but it probably hasn't sunk in yet,'" he added, trying to disguise his delight.

Head in clouds

JOHN Sykes, who has just been selected as the Tory candidate for Scarborough and Whitby — to succeed Sir Michael Shaw MP who retires at the next general election — has written to Lord Hanson, one of the party's supporters, seeking a further donation to funds, on the grounds that



they are both "Huddersfield boys made good." Sykes, aged 33, who won selection despite the presence on the short list of such celebrities as Lady Olga Maidland, the Sunday Express gossip columnist, stresses that he is in no way related to Paul Sykes, another Yorkshire businessman who hit the headlines last year as Britain's highest paid executive, earning £6 million a year. In fact, he is a director of his family firm, Sykes Group, which has a £21 million turnover and interests ranging from petroleum and plastics to agricultural and property development. "I'm on cloud nine," he said after being chosen. Hanson, whose support of the government and keen interest in the privatisation of Powergen are causing some embarrassment, might not be.

Silver load

IN RECENT weeks little old ladies, laden with carrier bags, have been offering their silverware contents as additions to the collection started by the founders of Courtaulds, the industrial materials conglomerate. They have been inspired by the collection now on display — in its entirety for the first time — at the Courtaulds Institute's new galleries in Somerset House, central London. "If they think they have silver which matches, they hope they'll be able to sell it," explains a bemused company spokesman. The collection, valued at more than £500,000, had previously been in a bank

vault. Its origins can be traced to 1687 when the first member of the Huguenot Courtauld family moved to London and began working as a silversmith in the Spitalfields area. He was the first of three generations to do so. The collection has been expanded more recently with expert assistance from Old Bond Street firm Tessiers, whose founding family, coincidentally, was also Huguenot.

Flying officer

POTENTIAL investors in RyanAir, the Irish airline which has just called in Goldman Sachs, the American merchant bank, to find it a partner, will not doubt be impressed by the versatility of its senior management. Twice a week, Cathal Ryan, aged 31, deputy chairman of the company and son of Dr Tony Ryan of GPA fame, abandons the comfort of his Dublin boardroom to pilot the scheduled flight to Luton. "In the unlikely event of passengers wanting to make a complaint they can go straight to the top," says Ryan, gleefully. "It's a marvellous way to keep in touch with our customers. But the regular flights must seem dull by comparison to what Ryan has been used to. A few years ago he was trapped in the cockpit of a Jumbo jet on the tarmac of Colombo airport during a civil war. A terrorist bomb blew up the rear end of the aircraft but Ryan escaped to the relative calm of life in the Emerald Isle.

CAROL LEONARD

Sweet deal for Queens Moat

QUEENS Moat Houses seems to have found a peach in its latest European purchase. It has paid an average £70,000 a room for a commanding position in the French hotel market, and a couple of hotels in Belgium, against more than the £100,000 it would have had to pay in Britain.

Queens Moat will pay £30 million down and up to £48 million in three years' time, but will keep all the profits meanwhile, thanks to the intricacies of French tax law. It therefore has three years in which to spruce up the ten hotels and to decide whether to continue to operate them under existing Holiday Inns and Ramada names.

Queens Moat's figures show the advantages of the move to the Continent begun a couple of years ago. While an inevitable softening of the British hotels market left occupancy rates a touch lower and limited organic growth to no more than 15 per cent, Germany and Belgium improved occupancy and saw growth of more than 20 per cent.

Pre-tax profits jumped from £24 million to £39.5 million, aided by a £2 million contribution after interest

costs from Norfolk Capital. Gearing is up to 59 per cent, but most is in continental currencies and/or capped at favourable rates. The shares still edged back 3p to 93p amid concerns over debt and that France might prove the proverbial deal too far.

Queens Moat is taking the precaution of locking in the existing management. Assuming pre-tax profits of £97 million this year, the shares sell on almost 11 times future earnings, expensive in the bombed-out leisure sector, but Queens Moat has better staying power than most.

Johnson Group

AN economic slowdown in America and Britain is not going to leave Johnson Group Cleaners untouched. Tighter housekeeping purses will reduce calls to the dry cleaners. Year-end profits, as a result, are likely to slip.

Interim trading profits at £10.3 million against £10.6 million, on a turnover of £76.1 million (£70.2 million), have meant reduced margins. At the pre-tax level (excluding property sales), profits are back from £9.7 million to £9.2

million. Include property profits, and the result is £9.6 million (£12.3 million).

The maintained interim dividend at 7p underlines the cautious outlook, and while gearing of 45 per cent is acceptable, and interest cover at 9.8 times respectable, higher interest charges are going to inhibit net earnings.

Johnson has almost 25 per cent of the British dry-cleaning market and, in time, may seek expansion opportunities on the continent.

A first contribution from an Ohio-based acquisition should be made in the second half, but even so year-end profits could slip from £18.5 million to £18 million.

The shares were 15p off at 545p yesterday, where they offer a prospective p/e of 10.2 backed by a yield of 6.25 per cent. A share to be remembered when economic conditions brighten.

Trencherwood

IT IS safe to assume that the most buoyant areas of the property market before the downturn will be quickest to recover come the upturn? Trencherwood, the Newbury

house builder and property developer that dominates the once surging west Berkshire market, thinks so. But that is little comfort in the short term. Turnover for the six months to end-April was down a third to £21.9 million, resulting in a £617,000 operating loss.

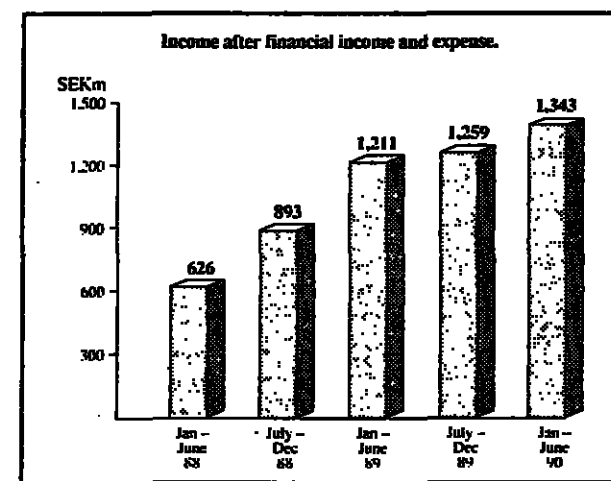
The company is taking all the bad news this time round, and exceptional provisions and write-downs of £2 million leave the bottom line deficit at £3.79 million.

A £1.3 million tax claw-back means that net assets per share are virtually unchanged, at 178p. But on a bricks-and-mortar basis, the shares are worth about a third less than last year's 180p. That still gives a net property asset value per share of about 120p, more than twice the share price after yesterday's 26p fall.

Analysts expect a £1 million loss for the full year, and a strong return to profits in 1991. With new housing prices in the north-east of England having virtually caught up with those in Berkshire, the upside potential for Trencherwood looks encouraging. Investors who have not been panicked out should hold for the recovery.

SKF First Six Months 1990

SKF six months profit SEK 1,343m



January - June 1990

	Change	Swedish Kronor	Sterling equivalent
Income after financial income and expense	+11%	1,343m	132m
Earnings per share	-4%	6.65	65p
Sales	+15%	14,707m	1,442m

A key element of SKF's long term strategy, is expansion through acquisition. In line with this policy and to build on the company's leading position, SKF Tools is to be merged with West German tool company Gunther & Co (Itex), to

form CTT Cutting Tools Technology. The company will be the world's largest manufacturer of tools made from high speed steel. The transaction is contingent upon approval of the German cartel authorities.

For a copy of the 1990 Half Year Report, please contact SKF Group Public Affairs S-415 50, Göteborg, Sweden. Tel +46 (31) 371000

Average exchange rate: Jan - June 1990 1 GBP = 10.20 SEK.

AB SKF

SKF

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches the prize money stated on the back of your card, you have won outright or a share of the daily claim proceeds on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	TIP Europe	Transport	
2	Unit & Lyle	Food	
3	Unit Newspapers (an)	Newspapers, Pub	
4	Goodfellow	Paper, Print, Adv	
5	Southport Prop	Property	
6	Handison Whomps	Industrial S-Z	
7	Unilever (an)	Consumer Goods	
8	Bauer Indes	Newspapers, Pub	
9	BAE (an)	Transport	
10	Glaxo (an)	Industrial A-D	
11	Glaxo (an)	Industrial A-D	
12	Wickes	Drapery, Stores	
13	Smiths Beech (an)	Industrial S-Z	
14	AB Food (an)	Food	
15	Hayward Williams	Building, Roads	
16	Steele	Building, Roads	
17	Transport Dev	Transport	
18	Terence (an)	Building, Roads	
19	Body Shop	Drapery, Stores	
20	Ind Bus Comm	Newspapers, Pub	
21	Traveller H (an)	Industrial S-Z	
22	Imp Chem Ind (an)	Chemicals, Plastics	
23	P & O Ltd (an)	Transport	
24	Sutton Eng	Industrial S-Z	
25	FR Group	Motors, Aircraft	
26	BTR (an)	Industrial A-D	
27	Berisford Ind (an)	Food	
28	Hammerston	Property	
29	Br Aerospace (an)	Motors, Aircraft	
30	St Ives Op	Paper, Print, Adv	
31	Boat & New (an)	Consumer Goods	
32	Coventry	Motors, Aircraft	
33	Cable Wireless (an)	Electronics	
34	Reamster	Industrial A-D	
35	Grand Met (an)	Food	
36	Lloyds (an)	Bank, Discount	
37	Exp Comp Leasing	Oil, Gas	
38	Morrison (W)	Food	
39	BAT (an)	Tobacco	
40	Nat West (an)	Bank, Discount	
41	Marl Spence (an)	Drapery, Stores	
42	Chevrolet	Property	
43	High-Pont	Industrial S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%	P/E
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%	P/E
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

54	33	Bank Of Wales	373	377	+5	27.4	73	16.5
478	357	Barclays (20)	1	1	-	-	-	-
12	357	BSA	14	14	-	5.2	16.0	5.5
303	357	Scotsman	300	308	+8	16.0	5.3	8.4
110	357	British Supply	24	28	+4	6.7	20.8	18.7
435	359	Coventry	357	363	+6	32.0	6.1	17.7
160	359	Coor Affen	57	60	+3	4.8	8.1	8.5
177	360	Galaxy	16	16	-	12.0	12.1	4.0
218	360	Century	10	10	-	-	-	-
239	360	Chase Manhattan	10	10	-	-	-	-
239	360	Deutsche	235	245	+10	8.5	4.0	15.5
239	360	First	235	245	+10	-	-	-
239	360	Bank of America	235	245	+10	-	-	-

071-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 4481

CHRISTIE'S

Japanese Department

Are you interested in Japanese paintings, sculpture, ceramics and manuscripts? Have you got good typing and shorthand skills (90/50)? Have you had extensive experience in a good work environment and a friendly, dedicated and interesting team?

If the answer is yes, you would like to hear from us. We have a vacancy in this department for a very good Secretary/Administrator.

Please ring or write to:

Mrs Susan Finbury
Personnel Manager
Christie's
8 King Street
St. James's
LONDON SW1Y 6QT. TEL: 071 389 2902.

SELECTION

MANAGER DESIGNATE

£16,000 + Package

Well established, one branch company in SW1 is seeking an experienced Consultant with a proven record in permanent placements. This position offers the opportunity to develop areas of business through the individual's own contacts, ideas and initiatives while maintaining an already active client base.

Only candidates confident in their ability and management potential need apply. For an immediate interview call:

071-528 8345

0444 454314 (evenings & weekends)

SENIOR SECRETARY

Urgently required by a leading firm of Chartered Accountants in Mayfair.

Duties include the supervision of Junior Secretaries, preparation of accounts, office administration, and the management of the firm's extensive client base.

Salary £14,000 rising to £15,000 after six months. Private medical insurance is also available.

Please phone Kate Barber, Ashley Phillips 071 499 2166.

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:

BOX NO. 484
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA STREET
WAPPING
LONDON E1 6BB

SUPER SECRETARIES

Power House

Take up the challenge and set up a new division for large and highly successful securities houses. Create your own efficient systems amidst the electric atmosphere of their huge dealing room - keep tabs on your team and initiate their correspondence. This is a highly charged and rewarding role for a secretary with good organisational skills, a tenacious spirit and a flexible attitude. Typing 60wpm, age 21-28. Generate a quick reaction by calling Elizabeth Williamson on 071-256 5018.

HOBSTONES

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Senior Associate of International Executive Search Consultancy in SW1 is looking for a capable and self-motivated PA. You will possess excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate well at all levels. Your typing and audio skills will be second to none. You will regularly liaise with Director level candidates and top clients, arrange interviews and in-house lunches, manage a hectic diary, and generally be well organised. Typing 60 wpm, age 25 to 35. Excellent salary. Exceptional benefits. Call Sue Douglas.

071-497 8003.

SUSAN DOUGHTY

Recruitment Consultants
Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

PA/ SECRETARY

To Managing Director

Small corporate finance boutique needs a highly organised efficient and personable young person to fill a high powered role. Duties require keen organisational skills, administrative abilities and office management responsibility. Must be experienced with good shorthand, expert WP skills and preferably have a proven track record in a similar position. Position would suit a dedicated individual with initiative who enjoys managing within a fast moving environment. Also extensive liaison with group offices in New York and San Francisco.

£14,000 to £16,000 - Mon-Fri. Salary circa £14,000 plus bonus. Good references must be provided.

Please write enclosing CV to The Weston Group, 36-38 Fenchurch St, London EC3N 2DQ. Attn: Mr JR Lacey, or ring 071-929 5456.

TV SPECIAL

to £14,000

Help organise and also attend conferences, seminars and exhibitions as PA/Secretary for a leading TV network in charge of promotions of a new television network. 50wpm typing and good shorthand. Excellent prospects envisaged.

Please telephone 071 280 5111
20 Bedford Street,
Covent Garden, W2 1EU

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/ADMINISTRATOR

FULHAM/CHelsea

Working for young directors of Independent Schools Management Company. This newly created position involves setting up all systems, organising meetings, client liaison & PA work. An excellent opportunity for a responsible, determined individual with initiative and a sense of humour. Mile 45 wpm. £214,000 p.a.

Call Jane on 071-323 3388.

PERSONNEL

BLUE CHIP BI-LINGUAL

£15,000 PLUS PERKS

This International Company based in the West End requires a mature, well educated, French speaking Secretary for two of its Executive Directors. Full Secretarial duties include liaising with Government and Embassies around the world. WP, audio, shorthand skills essential.

Call Karen on 071 734 4000
(Adair International). Rec Cons.

ADAIR

INTERNATIONAL

FARLEY & Co

OFFICE JUNIOR URGENTLY REQUIRED

For young busy Estate Agents in South Kensington. Duties include typing, photocopying, post, telephone work and general office duties. Must be able to work on own initiative. Good prospects and benefits. Ideal for 1st job.

Please contact Suzanne on 071-589 1244

JUNIOR SECRETARY

Urgently required to assist in busy Real Estate Department. Good secretarial skills, excellent shorthand required. Excellent prospects and salary for the right person.

Please contact Lynn on 071-589 1244

SMILE ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK

£20,000 package at 22

A golden opportunity has arisen in one of London's blue-chip investment houses.

A dynamic, young team in the fast-moving Corporate Finance Department is looking for an intelligent, pro-active PA to make travel arrangements, prepare reports, and provide a high level of administrative support to the team.

If you have a strong desire to work in a challenging environment and are prepared to put in the commitment required, please call to see us as soon as possible.

0400 2147

City Office 071-726 8491.

ANGELA MORTIMER

ADMINISTRATOR

Well organised mature person with good telephone manner and communication skills and typing. To run small busy office in young growing company based in Wandsworth. Good conditions & remuneration.

Please 02022 897335 or fax 061277 for further information.

AMERICAN LAW

FIRM, MAYFAIR

Expanding international practice requires two Senior Secretaries/PAs. Organizational and W.P. skills, a sense of humor and the ability to work under pressure are essential. Previous legal experience helpful but not essential. Salaries negotiable, A.A.E.

Please send CV to Mrs. Sandra Flint, Cole Cretts & Alamy, 21 Upper Brook Street, London W1P 1PD.

No agencies

TOKYO

TOP P.A./RESEARCH ASSISTANT

£20,000 + Flights, Travel and Accommodation

Large international securities house is recruiting a "Right Hand" to work with one of their top managers in Tokyo. An excellent opportunity for a mature, organized, and motivated individual with excellent communication, writing and presentation skills required. Call Early!

25 Museum Street WC1A 1JT. 071-255 1555

MERIDIAN Rec Cons

WBC Williams Lea Group

LEADING CITY PRINTING AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

PERSONAL SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

£16,000

A Secretary is needed for the Chairman of the Williams Lea Group. Companies in the Group provide Printing, Communication and Consultancy Services mainly for the City and Financial Markets.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and imaginative person who would enjoy real job involvement working with a small Head Office team.

With office management responsibilities a key part of the job, the ideal candidate will have good administrative ability and communication skills, as well as excellent typing and shorthand. For the right person, there are good longer term career prospects.

If you enjoy a challenge and like working in a small, friendly team, please apply in writing with CV to:

Barbara Peen,
Williams Lea Group Ltd,
89 Worship Street,
London EC2A 2BE.
(No Agencies Please)

PA/Sec to Snr Litigation Ptnr

£16,000

Established solicitors at Covent Garden are looking to recruit a top level legal PA with 2-3 years' litigation experience, to include a high level of building/construction litigation, to work at a very senior level. The senior partner you'll be working for is in his mid 30s and wants the right person to have a good educational/secretarial background, ideally be aged between 25-35 and have enough professionalism and character to run the office and handle his out, and handle his very busy day. If you feel you have these qualities please call Darren Underwood, Crawford Law on 071 255 5580.

MARKETING

£16,500.

An unusual and exciting opportunity has arisen in the marketing department of a very successful legal company.

Providing a full administrative and secretarial back up you will be fully involved in maintaining the high profile of this company by organizing and preparing reception for clients, seminars and helping with their organization into Europe.

You will also be handling sensitive and confidential information with the press and media.

Educated to at least 'A' level standard, your effective communication skills and ability to liaise at all levels, together with a creative and innovative approach will enable you to really contribute. An eye for detail and immaculate presentation are other essential attributes for the successful candidate.

A minimum of 4 years experience.

Age 20-30
Skills 60/50
WP and desk top publishing useful

Golden Square Office
Tel: 071-287 7788.

ANGELA MORTIMER

Need a Top Secretary?

Call 070 434-0030
215-217 Oxford St London W1A 1AN

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

£14,500 + BENEFITS

PA/RECEPTIONIST

West End Consultancy seeks self sufficient team member to work at director level with clients. Candidates and our own Secretaries. You will be working with good interpersonal skills. First class English, good typing/audio skills to 55 wpm required. Age not important but flexible attitude and sense of humor essential. Five weeks holiday. For details contact Louise on 071 493 5728.

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25 Museum Street WC1A 1JT. 071-255 1555

MERIDIAN Rec Cons

First Job

Famous Films

£9,400 + Bens

Brilliant first job working for famous film company who distribute 'Blockbusters' throughout the world. Working for one person within a young, lively team you will be encouraged to get thoroughly involved using your own skills (short-hand and typing - no audio). Opportunity to go on to bigger and better things within the company when you feel ready. To hear more please call Samantha Bradshaw on 071-437 6032.

HOBSTONES

STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS

Looking for that special person to get your company on the ladder to the top? We are looking for a number of people to fill a number of exciting positions in our company. The ideal candidate will be a motivated, energetic, and ambitious individual who is confident, organized, and has a proven track record in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. If you are interested, please send your CV to: 071-255 1555.

JUDY FISHER

ASSOCIATES

Recruitment Consultants

TELEPHONE 020 800 8000 or 01400

PA/ SECRETARY

To Managing Director

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£14,000 to £16,000 - Mon-Fri. Salary circa £14,000 plus bonus. Good references must be provided.

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MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

BI-LINGUAL FRENCH PA

£17,500.

Managing Director of a leading international company in Knightsbridge is looking for a first-class PA to work alongside him.

Totally involving role requiring a high level of organization, attending meetings, PR activities & business trips, liaising daily with Paris & European offices, as well as providing full PA support to him.

A high degree of personal presentation, the charm to communicate professionally at all levels plus fluent French, are all absolutely essential for this one-off opportunity.

Skills: 90/50

Golden Square Office
Tel: 071-287 7788.
ANGELA MORTIMER

NON-SECRETARIAL

DENTAL PRACTICE

MANAGERESS ASSISTANT

Private practice W1. Basic typing skills & dental experience necessary. Good salary a/c.

Tel: 071-935 0087

COLLEGE TO CAREER

JUNIOR

£9,500

In an advertising related company, there's a great career opportunity for a college leaver, audio/PA skills. A fascinating business in which to gain valuable experience with helpful workmates to support you.

Top benefits.

Phone 071-434 0030.

COLLEGE LEAVER - £10,000

FILM COMPANY - WEST LONDON

International Film Production Company is looking for a college leaver and video secretary to work in the busy department of production. The company is a leading force in the industry and offers a great career opportunity. The ideal candidate will be a motivated, energetic, and ambitious individual who is confident, organized, and has a proven track record in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. If you are interested, please send your CV to: 071-255 1555.

TEMPERATE TIMES

TEMPS ELITE

Are you receiving the type of service you need from your secretary? Our clients demand a thoroughly professional service. We fully realize that you need to be properly looked after and receive your just rewards. We require experienced secretaries with a thorough knowledge of Word Processing, particularly Microsoft Word, Wordperfect or similar. In return we offer regular assignments, day to day work, plus top awards.

Please ring 071-283 0799
Cross Selection (Rec Cons)

PART TIME VACANCIES

SHEPHERDS BUSH BASED TRAINING COMPANY SEEKS

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Capel provides driving force for Northants

By RICHARD STREETON

HAMPSHIRE were battling hard to avoid defeat in the semi-final round for the fifth time in eight years yesterday, as their NatWest Trophy match with Northamptonshire neared its climax at Southampton. Hampshire, chasing 285 to win, still wanted 147 from the final 20 overs as the light faded.

David Gower and Malcolm Marshall, who came together at 55 for three, kept their team's hopes alive with a stand which gathered momentum with every over, though both gave chances. Overall it was a day of fluctuating cricket for a capacity 5,500 crowd, whose spirits were unable to dampen.

Hampshire, who chose to field first, lost Chris Smith in the fourth over when he tried to cut a long hop from Robinson and was caught at deep point. Robin Smith attacked the bowling and took ten from Capel's first over. Capel, who has only bowled 18 overs in six weeks because of a back injury, then had Smith caught behind. Terry Skidmore caught on as he moved out against Cook's left-arm spin.

Capel, driving vigorously through the covers, was responsible just after the half-way point for a much-needed spur being applied to the Northamptonshire innings. He was the first to take on Marshall, who previously had set the tone as the Hampshire bowlers restricted the run rate.

Lamb followed suit in refusing to be tied down and Williams and Ambrose contributed usefully in the closing overs. By the time the Northamptonshire innings ended, they had reached their

best 60-over total against first-class opposition.

Marshall obtained frightening bounce as he bowled at full throttle when the match began, half-an-hour late, after heavy overnight rain. Felton, in particular, was given a torrid time. Fordham was caught at square-leg when he tried to punish a short ball from Bakker in the fourth over and Larkins took his time to find his bearings.

By lunch, Northamptonshire were 83 for two from 28 overs, Felton having been caught at mid-wicket as he mistimed a drive against Connor. Larkins tried to raise the tempo after the interval and on-drove Ayling for six. Soon afterwards, though, he was deceived by a slower ball from the same bowler.

A heavy shower delayed play for five minutes before Capel could embark on his brilliant, remedial strokeplay. His only false stroke came against Bakker, when he was 25, and Nicholas was unable to take a difficult, high chance over his shoulder at deep mid-on.

Marshall, whose first seven overs cost only nine runs, was brought back. He briefly checked Capel, but was then punished for 17 in two overs when Lamb, too, accelerated as the players ignored spasmodic drizzle. Capel's 43 had come in a stand of 66 in 11 overs when he was out. Having turned back the challenge from the fast men, Capel seemed to check an intended drive as soon as Maru returned and lifted a catch to extra cover.

Lamb now took over Capel's mantle. He had just taken three fours in an over

against Connor, however, when he and Bailey fell to successive balls. First Bailey was deceived by Connor's late movement. At the other end, Lamb bowed his head in self-reproach as he tried to sweep Maru and lobbed a simple catch to backward short-leg.

Northamptonshire were 205 for six in the 48th over and it was Williams, that much under-rated player, who now made certain that Hampshire would not be allowed to bring the innings to a rapid finish. Ripley lingered briefly before he was splendidly held low at slip by Maru when Marshall came back. Ambrose spurred a helmet against his fellow West Indian and Marshall spared him nothing, but the honours were shared in a tense, little duel.

When Ambrose was finally stumped in the penultimate over, the eighth wicket pair had put on 42 in six overs. Williams was bowled by the penultimate ball of the innings.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
A Fordham c Ayling b Bakker 1
N A Felton c Gower b Connor 51
W Larkins c Perkins b Ayling 46
D J Lamb c G L Smith b Maru 58
D J Capel c Nicholas b Maru 43
R G Williams b Connor 48
R G Williams b Connor 48
10 Ripley c Maru b Marshall 7
C E L Ambrose at Perth b Ayling 22
N B Cook not out 6
M A Robinson b Connor 0
Extras (lb 6, w 6, nb 1) 18
Total (50 overs) 284
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-70, 3-111, 4-177, 5-205, 6-208, 7-250, 8-272, 9-284.
SCORING: Marshall 12-0-37-1, Bakker 12-2-41-1, Connor 12-1-73-4, Ayling 12-0-78-2, Maru 12-0-61-2.

HAMPSHIRE
V P Tarry c Robinson b Cook 24
C L Smith c Felton b Robinson 0
R A Smith c Ripley b Capel 20
D J Gower not out 58
M D Marshall not out 53
Extras 13
Total (3 wickets) 196
"M C J Nicholas, J R Ayling, J R Perkins, J Maru, C A Connor and P J Bakker to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-57, 3-55.
Umpires: K J Lyons and A G T Whithead.



Choice cut: Lamb scoring four of his 58 runs against Hampshire yesterday

Haynes puts Middlesex in good position

By ALAN LEE

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Middlesex have scored 199 for two wickets from 49 overs against Lancashire.

THIS was not a good day to be a Lancastrian. The county's biggest occasion for years fell prey to old-fashioned Manchester weather, and what play there was for the capacity crowd to absorb belonged largely to the prolific bats of Desmond Haynes and Mike Gatting, of Middlesex.

Haynes resumes today on 95 and, by scoring at four runs an over for the first 49 overs of their innings, and losing only two wickets, Middlesex have built a platform for a total

approaching 300 which, even on a good pitch and against such a depth of batting as Lancashire possess, would make them mighty hard to beat.

Middlesex are pursuing a third consecutive NatWest Trophy final, and John Emburey was saying only yesterday morning that the players regard the 60-overs game as their specialist subject. The same was once true of Lancashire, of course, and not the least intriguing aspect of this match is that the two sides had identical records over the 28 years of the competition - played 79, won 36. No other counties have had such success.

Something had to give, and

the pity of it is that it was the weather. The drought broke before dawn and by mid-morning there was a pageant of umbrellas under rain so steady that any play at all seemed unlikely. Umpires Constant and Meyer, however, were commendably keen to get the game under way - rather too keen for the captains' liking.

Following the announcement of a 2pm start, Gatting and David Hughes conducted their own inspection, then drew the umpires' attention to certain areas of the outfield. Objection overruled, they reluctantly tossed up and Hughes put Middlesex in without, perhaps, complete conviction.

The possibility of having to operate with a wet ball had already persuaded Gatting to omit his second spin bowler, Tufnell. Lancashire fielded their usual array of seamers, of whom this year's beneficiary, Paul Allott, had much the best day. Not only did he bowl two impressively niggardly spells, he also heard the coins rattling in his collection buckets to the tune of more than £2,700.

Allott conceded only three runs in his first five overs, the fourth of which saw off Roseberry as he played across a straight one. DeFreitas was far less impressive, and when Wasim Akram replaced him for the fourth over the game entered a critical phase. Lancashire needed their

best bowler to dismiss at least one and preferably both of Middlesex's best batsmen. He might so easily have obliged. In his second over, one ball lifted fiercely past Gatting's grey beard and another almost yanked Haynes. Several lbw appeals followed, some of them undoubtedly close.

Middlesex still prospered against the support bowling and when rain brought another two-hour delay Haynes and Gatting were both past 50 and Lancashire were glad of the sanctuary. Fewer than half the spectators remained when play resumed but they had something to cheer them at last when Gatting, earlier the subject of an inexplicably hostile recep-

tion, was bowled off the inside edge by Watkinson's inswinger.

Derek Randall, Nottinghamshire's former England batsman whose recent career has been hit by injury, admitted yesterday that he was thinking over his future.

MIDDLESEX
D L Haynes not out 95
M A Robinson b Watkinson 16
M A Gatting b Watkinson 63
M R Ramprakash not out 17
Extras (lb 2, w 10, w 5, nb 1) 18
Total (2 wickets, 49 overs) 199
K R Brown, J P R Dowling, J E Emburey, N F Williams, A R C Fraser, S P Hughes and N G Coward to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-47.
LANCASHIRE: G D Mendis, G Fowler, M A Atherton, N H Fairbrother, M Watkinson, Wasim Akram, P A J DeFreitas, J W K Mason, I D Austin, D P Hughes, P J W Alcock.
Umpires: D J Constant and B J Meyer.

London event finds saviour

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE future of Britain's only indoor ATP tennis tour event, which had looked decidedly bleak when the Silk Cut championships folded two months ago, has been secured for the next two years at least. The Association of Tennis Professionals confirmed yesterday that the bid by Pro Serv, the American-based international sports management company, to stage an event at the Wembley Arena in November had been successful.

The tournament, with \$330,000 in prize-money this year and \$500,000 next, will be called the London indoor championships and have a 32-man singles field headed by the former Wimbledon champion, Pat Cash, and the

defending Silk Cut champion, Michael Chang.

The young American, Pete Sampras, and Jakob Hlasek, the 1988 champion, have also confirmed their commitment to the event, which runs in the week beginning November 5.

The Lawn Tennis Association will put up \$50,000 towards the costs and help with administration. In return, a place in the field will be automatically given to the winner of the British national championships, held in Telford the previous week.

"London deserves to have a professional winter tournament and it ought to be able to support one," the new tournament director, Mike Campbell, of Pro Serv, said. "Our aim is to provide a good

week's entertainment and to contribute to British tennis. Pro Serv, whose impressive list of clients includes the new world No. 1, Stefan Edberg, and John McEnroe, are looking at the tournament as a long-term investment.

"It's like a house," Campbell said. "You don't want to be buying at the top end of the market, you want to be getting something which will increase in value." But the company has only 12 weeks to find a main sponsor and to persuade one of the network television companies to continue their coverage of the event, quite apart from enticing a strong field to London the week before the ATP tour world championships in Frankfurt.

Perryman resigns as Brentford boss

By DENNIS SIGBY

STEVE Perryman surprisingly resigned as manager of Brentford, the third division club, last night only ten days before the new season. "I feel I have gone as far as I can go at the club. The time has come for me to leave," he said.

Perryman, aged 38, announced his decision to Martin Lange, the chairman, who interrupted a holiday in the south of France to return to London.

"I have spent more than three happy years at Brentford, during which time I have learned a lot about football management, and I am delighted the club gave me my managerial start. I know it is

an unfortunate time and hope it will not hinder the club's start to the season," he added.

Under Perryman, a former England international and Footballer of the Year, who was awarded the MBE for his services to football, Brentford reached the sixth round of the FA Cup two seasons ago before losing to Liverpool; and also achieved their highest League position for 24 years in finishing seventh. However, after a poor start to last season, they finished thirteenth.

Perryman's decision to resign followed a 6-0 home defeat in an exhibition game last weekend.

Organiser critical of Faldo

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN DENVER

NICK Faldo's late decision to miss The International golf tournament which starts at Castle Pines here today has attracted thinly veiled criticism from the organisers of the event who thought they had secured his presence some months ago.

They had arranged a corporate outing and built their publicity campaign around the anticipated duel between Faldo, who won The Masters and The Open this year, and Greg Norman, the defending champion and the man who leads the Sony world rankings.

But after the strain and stress of an 80 in the third round of the PGA championship last week, Faldo

hinted that he might pull out of the International and the World Series of Golf, in Akron, Ohio, next week.

Despite a 69 in the final round he notified the international organisers and the tour that he would not, after all, be turning up. Faldo revealed that a specialist had ordered him to rest a long-standing tendon injury.

Before heading home, Faldo did manage a diversion to Chicago to play, on Monday, in a match for Japanese television with Jack Nicklaus, Isao Aoki and Curtis Strange.

They were paid \$100,000 (\$53,000) to appear, with another \$100,000 at stake.

Withdrawing from a long-standing commitment, verbal or not, was seen here as bad manners by Jack Vickers, the owner and founder of Castle Pines. He said yesterday:

"There's nothing much I can do about it. I'm sorry he made the decision he did. He's got to live with it, not me.

"I think it'll hurt him more than it'll hurt us. When a person makes a commitment, he should honour it. He built us up to a crescendo, then let everyone down. I don't think that does anyone any good."

Faldo's management representatives were unavailable for comment last night.

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The soulful loneliness of long-distance runners

Gdansk, Poland

THEY gathered peacefully, in the gently falling rain, down at the shipyard by the notorious Gate 2, now festooned with flowers, where 20 years ago striking workers were mowed down by police and army guns.

Yesterday, on the tenth anniversary of the foundation of Solidarity in 1980, the people of this city, of the whole of the nation of Chopin, were remembering their heroes with a memorial half-marathon run from here to Gdynia, the adjacent Baltic port. The event was part of the Solidarity Games, the staging of a dozen sports as a symbolic, unaggressive recognition of Solidarity's triumphant revolution "without a broken window-pane".

There was no shouting, no feeling of vengeance, just an overwhelming, silent sense of freedom as the 1,100 runners gathered for the race. Mothers with prams, heralds of the new generation of hope, watched the jostling runners as they warmed

up, in mute appreciation of the significance of the moment.

A cheer was heard. Lech Walesa, Poland's latter-day Wai Tyler, had arrived at the scene of a decade of proletarian heroism. There had been talk that he would run a short distance in the race; perhaps because he recently took part in a publicity motor race.

But Walesa is not these days built for running. He would fire the gun. Upon a word, the runners and the crowd moved from Gate 2 the short distance to the 70-foot-high memorial statue of three crosses, bound by an anchor at the top and forged by the shipyard workers, the base depicting the crafts of their trade. The three crosses represent the three uprisings of Polish workers: at Poznan in 1956 and in

Gdansk and Gdynia in 1970 and 1980.

Even a foreigner must have been near to tears as, unaccompanied, the national anthem was sung under a weeping sky; yet one more soulful moment of a people historically trapped in the nutcracker of middle Europe's political rivalries.

The start of the race was somewhat short on Olympic protocol. Television cameramen, runners and voyeurs jostled for a position with a view of the starter. Ultimately, the only evidence that the race had begun was that the man or woman in front of you was no longer standing on your toes.

With all the urgency of an English village cricket team taking the field after a long tea interval with too many home-baked cakes, the runners departed: representatives of half a dozen nations, including the United States, and almost 20 per cent of them women with addition-

ally a significant number of handicapped competitors.

As the tail of the field disappeared, Walesa held an impromptu press conference on the steps of the Solidarity headquarters and accepted a bicentenary memento from *The Times* from which he would be able, he said gratefully, to drink his morning cup of coffee and think of the world's oldest daily newspaper.

The finishing line in Gdynia, 20 kilometres away, was poignantly sited, alongside the town hall where, during the 1980 uprising, many strikers were imprisoned and Janek Wisniewski, a leading Solidarity activist, was killed.

When the building was liberated, the walls were found to be covered in blood. Outside, on the city square where the ancient trains rumble past, stands a wooden cross, a temporary memorial to Wisniewski.

and others that will be replaced by a monument similar to that in Gdansk.

The impact of the scene in Gdynia was its representation of the average, ordinary people with ordinary lives harbouring simple ambitions, unostentatiously proud, resilient and, when necessary, defiant. Their response to historic change was to treat it with maturity.

The winners of yesterday's race were Marek Deputat for the men and Iza Zatorska for the women. Among the runners was Jack Donaghy, one of the actors in Andrzej Wajda's film *A Man Made of Iron*. Many incidents around the finishing line seemed simple enough, but would have been unimaginable barely a year ago, such as the banner for the Polish navy's branch of Solidarity. It was a day of imperishable memories.